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PART IV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF KOWEIT.

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ERRATA.

Page 25, line 19. For "5 miles" read "5 days."
 Page 59. No. 104 should be received and dated the 20th March, not the 29th March, and appear on p. 53. as No. 93*.
 Page 96, Inclosure in No. 159, line 3. For "antiguous to Nejd" read "antiguous to Koweit."
 Page 113, Inclosure in No. 187, line 6. For "his movements" read "her movements."
 Page 121, line 5. For "Sheikh of Mohammerah" read "Sheikh of Koweit."

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Koweit.

PART IV.

No. 1.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 1.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 1, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated the 1st January, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station relative to Koweit.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Trincomalee, January 1, 1902.

HAVE ordered "Fox" and "Perseus" to Koweit.

Senior Officer, Persian Gulf, has been directed not to land men.

"Pomone" proceeds to Bombay as soon as her services can be dispensed with, on account of an outbreak of beri-beri.

No. 2.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 1, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Admiralty in reply to their communication of the 31st ultimo,* respecting the steps which have been taken by the Officer in Command of His Majesty's ship "Pomone" for the defence of the Sheikh of Koweit.

* No. 3.

I am also to inclose copies of a note from the Turkish Ambassador,* and of a despatch which Lord Lansdowne has addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† recording a conversation with Anthopoulos Pasha on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 3.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 1, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your Confidential letter of the 31st ultimo, inclosing the decypher of a telegram, dated the 29th ultimo, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Pomone," relative to the situation at Koweit.

I am directed by his Excellency to transmit herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the decypher of a telegram which was almost simultaneously received from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the same subject.‡

In view of the information received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, as reported in this telegram, I am to express Lord Lansdowne's hope that the Lords Commissioners will instruct the Officer in Command of His Majesty's ship "Pomone" to desist from his preparations for the defence of Koweit the moment it becomes clear that the place is no longer really threatened by the forces of the Emir of Nejd or of the Sultan.

I am at the same time to inclose, for their Lordships' information, a copy of a despatch which Lord Lansdowne has addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, recording a conversation with the Turkish Ambassador on this subject.§

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 2, 1902.

I HAVE received to-day the following telegram, dated the 31st December, from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah:—

"No. 83.

"Last night the Emir was still within 3 miles of Zobeir, but to-day none of his people are to be seen here. This morning a battalion of Ottoman troops, in full marching order, about 300 strong, left for Zobeir, whither the Government Contractor has sent provisions in considerable quantity; he has received orders to prepare supplies for four more battalions, which are to arrive at an early date.

"It is also said that an embargo has been laid by the Government on sailing vessels proceeding up the Euphrates, the vessels to be used for the transport of troops. It may be that they intend to occupy Sevahn on the Zobeir-Hafer route, about 6 hours from the former place, and so attempt locally to recover their loss of prestige.

"Four thousand pounds have been given to the Emir."

I cannot understand why the Captain of His Majesty's ship "Pomone" landed guns at Jehara, seeing that the Ottoman Government has repeated its assurances to us, and that the Emir's recent movements seem to be leading him away from the neighbourhood of Koweit. It seems hard to believe that the Sublime Porte has given 4,000*l.* to the Emir except to induce him to return home to Nejd. Had this money been given as a subsidy

* See Part III, No. 262.
† See Part III, No. 267.

‡ See Part III, No. 268.
§ See Part III, No. 268.

No. 3*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 1, 1902.

ON the 30th ultimo the Ottoman Ambassador addressed to me a note, complaining of the erection at Koweit of a second flagstaff for signalling as being contrary to the maintenance of the *status quo*, and requesting that it should be removed.

He, at the same time, asked me to confirm in writing the declaration made by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires that the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Pomone" had never lowered the Turkish flag over the Sheikh's residence, and that the flag continued to fly as before.

I had an interview with his Excellency yesterday, when I impressed on him how anxious I was that all action, however trivial, which might appear to infringe the *status quo* should be avoided. I stated that His Majesty's Government were ready, if the facts proved to be as stated, to order the second flagstaff to be removed, adding, however, that in the event of a necessity arising for communicating by signal between His Majesty's ships and Koweit, the Sheikh's flag might have to be removed temporarily while the signal flags were being used.

As to the second point, I told his Excellency that I had not before me the text of Mr. de Bunsen's assurance, but that I felt sure that it accurately represented the views of His Majesty's Government. I added that, if necessary, I would instruct your Excellency to confirm it.

to attack Koweit, we must have obtained knowledge of it; of this the Sultan is quite aware, and I feel convinced that His Imperial Majesty is not prepared to bring matters to an issue.

It is quite possible, too, that the military preparations of the Turks reported by Mr. Wratislaw are made with the object of coercing the Emir.

I have as yet heard nothing from the Porte or the Palace as to the action of the Captain of the "Pomone," but I can hardly hope that it will not be resented as an infringement of the Agreement to respect the *status quo* at Koweit.

No. 5.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 1st January, respecting Koweit.

India Office, January 2, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

January 1, 1902.

(Telegraphic.)

KOWEIT.

Following telegram, dated 28th December, from Kemball :—

"Following telegram received from Wratislaw to-day :—

"Amir, with part of his force, is 15 miles from Bussorah, and in constant communication with Vali and Mushir. His agent has sent him with 70 tons of provisions. Sultan has ordered present of 2,000*l.* to be made him from Famine Fund Treasury, which is empty. I hear that Amir himself attacks Koweit after Ramazan. Vali and Mushir spend hours daily at the telegraph office, but I cannot learn purport of their communications with Constantinople."

"I think it desirable that reinforcements should be sent by Admiral to Koweit."

These constant alarms about Koweit seem to justify stronger language at Constantinople than has yet been employed. If the Turks can neither keep Nejd in check nor protect Koweit from attack, it is obvious that their alleged authority over both is a farce.

No. 6.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 2nd January, respecting the movements in the Persian Gulf of the Russian ship "Varyag."

India Office, January 3, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

January 2, 1902.

(Telegraphic.)

KEMBALL telegraphs 31st December :—

"Varyag" left Koweit on 24th December for Lingah and Bunder Abbas. I hear from Koweit that Sheikh is not very communicative about Russian Consul's visit to

him, though he told Senior Naval Officer that Russian Consul had made offer of assistance to him, in name of Russian Government, if he asked for it, to maintain his independence.

"I am going to Koweit on Thursday to see Sheikh to find out what actually transpired."

No. 7.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 3rd January, respecting Koweit.

India Office, January 3, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, January 3, 1902.

MY telegram 24th December. Koweit.

Porte denied, 28th December, prohibition of export of provisions, and stated that Amir had left for Nejd. O'Connor, however, learns that prohibition was issued by Vali, but has since been rescinded.

With reference to your telegram 28th December, O'Connor has again made representations to Porte as to proceedings of Vali and Amir. Further, Lord Lansdowne has warned Turkish Ambassador that, if Porte is unable to control its own officials, we may find it impossible to acquiesce in continuation of *status quo* which leads to recurrence of incidents such as recent visit of Nakib to Koweit.

No. 8.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 3, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated the 3rd January, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, relative to Koweit.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, January 3, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 1 and that of the 29th December from Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

Foreign Office requests that, in view of assurance of Turkish Ambassador in this country and of statements of Consul at Bussorah, dated the 31st December, to the effect that the Amir of Nejd was returning home by the Sultan's orders, the preparations for the defence of Koweit may be abandoned so soon as it is clear that the place is no longer really threatened by Amir or Turks.

Instruct Senior Naval Officer, Koweit, accordingly.

No. 9.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 3.)

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 3, 1902.

CONSUL WRATISLAW telegraphed yesterday from Bussorah as follows:—

"No. 1. Although the Emir is moving off, he is going very reluctantly and slowly, and does not seem to have quite decided to return to Nejd. He was within three hours of Zobeir yesterday. Negotiations appear to be going on still, and his treasury remains at Bussorah. Alarmist messages of the Emir's intentions, which I consider hardly justified at present, are about to be sent to Koweit by Sheikh Moubarek's agent."

The battalion which I spoke of in my telegram No. 83 is now on its way to Sevwan, and is taking supplies for a month.

No. 10.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 24th December, respecting Koweit.

India Office, January 3, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, December 24, 1901.

YOUR telegrams of 22nd, 23rd December.

De Bunsen has been directed to inform Porte that prohibition of supplies of provisions to Koweit is a breach of *status quo* upon which our assurances depend, and that if Koweit is attacked by Turkish or Amir's forces we shall use force.

No. 11.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 3rd January, relating to Koweit.

India Office, January 4, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

January 3, 1902.

(Telegraphic.)

KOWEIT. Kemball telegraphs 1st January:—

"Wratislaw has sent me copy of following telegram sent to Constantinople: 'Amir was still at a place 3 miles distant from Zobeir last night, but his men are not seen in Bussorah to-day, 31st December. At sunrise this morning battalion of Turkish infantry 300 strong went to Zobeir in full marching order. Government contractor has sent large quantity of provisions for Zobeir, and has been warned to prepare for four battalions expected shortly. I hear that Ottoman Government has laid embargo on sailing vessels up the Euphrates for transport. Possibly they intend

to occupy Sehwan, six hours from Zobeyr, on the way to Hafer, and otherwise attempt to retrieve damaged prestige locally. Amir has received 4,000l.' Position is, I think, serious. Sheikh claims Hafer to be within his territories, and also, I think, Sehwan, and although his claim to them is doubtful, he will undoubtedly become very anxious, and probably seek to make terms with Turks. I venture to suggest that Porte should be informed that unless movements of troops are countermanded, we shall have no option but to declare Protectorate."

"Pomone," "Sphinx," and "Redbreast" are now at Koweit, and Admiral has ordered "Fox" and "Perseus" to proceed there with some extra guns.

No. 12.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 6, 1902.)

(No. 456.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 30, 1901.

WITH reference to my telegrams No. 169 of the 27th instant and No. 170 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to report that I inquired of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day whether he had received confirmation of his statement that the Emir had returned to Nejd, and at the same time I told his Excellency that a rumour was current at Bussorah that he proposed attacking Koweit after Ramazan.

Tewfik Pasha replied that the rumour of an intended attack upon Koweit was entirely without foundation and that the Emir had already left on his return journey to Nejd.

I had, on the 24th instant, informed his Excellency of the news we had received from our naval authorities to the effect that the exportation of provisions to Koweit had been prohibited by the Vali of Bussorah. I did not see the Minister myself as I had only just arrived, and I was unwilling to give ground for some sensational paragraph in the papers by replying at once to the Sublime Porte, but I requested Mr. de Bunsen to call on my behalf and to tell the Minister that if the news were true it pretty clearly indicated the trend of affairs and the likelihood of fresh complications which would be unpleasant to the Ottoman Government. His Excellency had assured me that the existing state of things in those parts would not be disturbed nor the Sheikh of Koweit molested. Since then he had been frightened by the visit of a Turkish Nahib, who, under the plea of his religious character, had attempted to constrain the Sheikh, and now we had heard of a further and more direct attempt to disturb the *status quo*. I thought it best therefore that his Excellency and the Ottoman Government should clearly understand that His Majesty's Government would not allow any attack upon Koweit either by the Emir or Turkey.

The assurances I have received since this date have been in every respect, and as far as they go, satisfactory, and I am rather unwilling to believe that the Imperial Government will venture, in face of our oft repeated warning, to encourage acts of aggression upon Koweit which may be followed by such serious consequences and which are sure, whatever happens, to result in a loss of authority and prestige to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 13.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 12th December, respecting Koweit.

India Office, January 4, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Simla, May 26, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed to forward, for your information, a copy of a letter regarding a proposal made by his Excellency the Naval Commander-in-chief to survey the harbour at Koweit in the Persian Gulf.

It was suggested that the Royal Indian Marine steamer "Lawrence" might be employed in making a rough survey of the harbour, in the course of which it would have been necessary to erect flags on the surrounding coast, and to lay buoys in the harbour. You should no doubt send the "Lawrence" to Koweit at intervals, so as to evince the positive interest of the British Government in the place, but not with such frequency or in such a manner as to excite suspicion, and certainly not with the intention of floating buoys or planting flags.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. WOOD,
*Officiating Under-Secretary to the
Government of India.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Government of India to Rear-Admiral Douglas.

Simla, May 11, 1899.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, dated the 12th March last, stating that it appears very desirable that the Harbour of Koweit, Persian Gulf, should be surveyed at an early date.

In reply, I am to state that, in the opinion of the Government of India, there are political objections to the proposed survey being undertaken at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. MAITLAND,
Secretary to Government of India.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, November 10, 1901.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to your letter of the 26th May, 1899, and to inquire if any political objection now exists to an accurate survey of the Koweit Harbour being undertaken. Contingencies may arise where such a survey would undoubtedly prove very useful, and I understand that the naval authorities are anxious that it should be carried out.

As the Royal Indian Marine steamer "Investigator" is now in the Persian Gulf, and so good an opportunity is not likely to occur again, I have the honour to submit the matter for the consideration of the Government of India, and to request that, if possible, I may be favoured with a reply by telegram, so that the necessary instructions may be given to the officer in command of the "Investigator."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL,
Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 4 in No. 13.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Telegraphic.)

Calcutta, November 26, 1901.

YOUR letter of 10th November.

No objection to accurate survey of Koweit Harbour, provided Sheikh Mubarak agrees.

No. 14.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 6.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 6, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs under date of yesterday as follows:—

"No. 2. The Emir of Nejd was yesterday at Shabide, a place about three hours from Zobeir. He moved on again the same day. He was not accompanied by the battalion of Turkish troops."

Shabide is not marked on any map in my possession, but from the expression "moved on" I rather gather that the Emir is on his way home.

No. 15.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 6th January, relative to Koweit.

India Office, January 7, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, January 6, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 1st instant: Koweit.

At request of Foreign Office, Admiralty have instructed naval authorities to desist from defensive preparations the moment it becomes clear that Koweit is no longer really threatened by Nejd or Turks. Turkish Ambassador expressed grave concern at action of naval authorities, and was informed that these untoward occurrences were result of inability of Porte to control local agents, and that so long as place continued to be threatened they must not complain of continuance of precautionary measures.

No. 16.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 7.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 7, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs under date of yesterday as follows:—

("No. 3.)

"My latest information as to the Emir Ibn Reschid is that he is at Tchoebde, a place in the desert some nine hours distant from here. It is impossible to say in what direction he will move, and I fear I can no longer keep in touch with him.

"The troops are, in all probability, between Naserie and Zobeir, to which latter place a further supply of provisions has been forwarded."

The foregoing telegram is the consequence of my request to Mr. Wratishaw to keep me posted, as closely as possible, about the movements of the Emir.

No. 17.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 8, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs, under date of yesterday, as follows:—

("No. 4.)

"A Jewish photographer, and British subject, has just come in from Tchoebde, where he left the Emir on the 4th instant, having spent some days with him. From this man's statements I gather that the Emir is disinclined to take any decision as to his future movements until he receives further news from Constantinople.

"Reinforcements are being brought up hurriedly from Nejd, and some have arrived already.

"It seems possible that the Emir has not yet given up all hope of being permitted to attack Sheikh Mubarek, and that he did not receive a very peremptory order from the Sultan to return to Nejd."

From private sources, I learn that the Turkish Ambassador in London has been instructed to inform your Lordship that our explanations are not considered satisfactory by the Porte, that the Sultan complains of the landing of guns and the erection of the second flagstaff, and that His Imperial Majesty is able and willing to prevent any attack by the Emir on Koweit, which His Majesty regards as an integral part of his Empire.

No. 18.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 8, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 4th instant, inclosing copies of correspondence received from the Government of India in regard to a proposal that the Royal Indian mail-steamer "Investigator" should make a survey of the Harbour of Koweit.

Lord Lansdowne apprehends that in view of the situation existing at Koweit, such a proceeding might give rise to fresh rumours and unfounded impressions as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government with regard to that place, and he would therefore suggest, for Lord G. Hamilton's consideration, that it would be desirable to postpone the survey for the present.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 19.

Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 9.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne et ayant communiqué au Gouvernement Impérial la dernière note de sa Seigneurie relativement à Koweit, est chargé par la Sublime Porte de porter à la connaissance de sa Seigneurie ce qui suit:—

[1518]

D

Les considérations mises en avant par le Gouvernement Britannique pour expliquer l'attitude des officiers de marine Anglais au cours des derniers incidents à Koweït, loin de la justifier, ne font en réalité que ressortir davantage combien elle est contraire à l'entente intervenue entre les deux pays. En effet, bien que d'après la dite entente, confirmée d'ailleurs par la note de sa Seigneurie en date du 11 Septembre dernier, il eût été formellement convenu que le *statu quo* serait maintenu dans ces parages, *statu quo* que le Gouvernement Impérial a scrupuleusement respecté, les agents Anglais contrairement à cet engagement, qui excluait toute idée d'occupation et de Protectorat, ont débarqué à Koweït plusieurs canons sous le prétexte que l'Emir de Nedjd se préparait à attaquer la dite ville.

Anthopoulos Pacha a pour devoir d'ajouter que la Sublime Porte s'explique d'autant moins cette attitude du Gouvernement Britannique que l'Ibn Rechid s'est déjà éloigné de ces parages, ainsi que la Sublime Porte l'a du reste déclaré dans l'une de ses communications précédentes que l'Ambassadeur n'a pas manqué de faire connaître au Foreign Office.

Dans ces circonstances et malgré le fait indiscutable que Koweït constitue une partie intégrante de la Turquie et que le pavillon Ottoman y flotte depuis 300 ans, la Porte s'étonne d'avoir à constater que le Gouvernement Britannique paraisse établir un Protectorat sur ce pays.

Fort de son bon droit le Gouvernement Impérial ne saurait dévier de son point de vue dans cette question et confirmant ses déclarations précédentes il ne peut qu'insister absolument pour que l'entente établie soit strictement observée. Or, la première condition de l'observance de la dite entente est nécessairement que sa Seigneurie avise à ce que des ordres formels soient transmis au Commandant du bâtiment Anglais dans les eaux de Koweït en vue de rembarquer le plus promptement possible les canons débarqués et de s'abstenir dorénavant de toute ingérence dans les affaires intérieures du pays.

C'est avec la plus entière confiance dans les sentiments de justice du Gouvernement Britannique que la Sublime Porte ne doute pas que sa Seigneurie veuille bien convenir de la légitimité de la manière de voir professée par le Gouvernement Impérial dans cette question et faire droit à la réclamation qui vient d'être exposée plus haut.

Anthopoulos Pacha exprime en même temps sa ferme conviction que sa Seigneurie voudra bien lui communiquer le plus tôt possible une réponse favorable à ce sujet afin qu'il puisse la transmettre à son Gouvernement, qui est anxieux de voir les choses rétablies à leur état antérieur lors de l'entente intervenue entre les deux Gouvernements.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 9 Janvier, 1902.*

No. 20.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a telegram from the Viceroy of the 8th January, 1902, regarding the defence of Koweït.

India Office, January 9, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram, 6th January: Koweït.

January 8, 1902.

We do not understand above. Opening paragraph about removal of defensive preparations appears to be inconsistent with concluding words about continuance of precautionary measures. Our information does not justify belief that Koweït is no longer threatened by Nejd, and we deprecate action which might be misinterpreted locally and might bring on very danger which it desires to avert.

No. 21.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 8th January, relative to Koweït.

India Office, January 9, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

January 8, 1902.

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram, 2nd January: Koweït.

Kemball telegraphs, 6th:—

"I have returned from Koweït, where I visited Sheikh, who is at Jehara, 15 miles distant from Koweït. He appears more easy in his mind, and expressed his intention of complying with advice of Senior Naval Officer in case of movement of Turks or Emir towards Koweït. He informed me that Russian Consul told him that he was sent by his Government to see him and tell him that he was considered to be independent, and that British and Russian Ambassadors had told Porte simultaneously that his independence must be respected. Russian Consul asked him to write letter of acknowledgment to the Czar, which Sheikh declined to do. Consul then told him that if he wanted assistance he should write to him at Bushire. Sheikh replied that if he wanted assistance he would apply to British Government. From news received from Wratislaw, it appears that Emir is moving slowly and reluctantly, and it hardly looks as if he has made up his mind to return home. His treasure remains at Bussorah, and apparently negotiations continue. The battalion mentioned in my telegram of 1st January has marched, with month's provisions, towards Lashwan, which I cannot at present identify."

No. 22.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 13.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 2, 1902.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 3 of the 1st instant informing me of the substance of a note received by your Lordship from the Ottoman Ambassador in which his Excellency asks for confirmation of certain statements made here by Mr. de Bunsen with reference to the recent flag incident at Koweït.

The allusion is doubtless to the language which Mr. de Bunsen held, by my desire, to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 24th ultimo, being the morning of my return to Constantinople.

As I regarded the flag incident as closed, I did not think it necessary at the time to report what Mr. de Bunsen had said on this point, but, in view of the Turkish Ambassador's inquiries, it may be well that I should now refer to the matter.

Having before him the telegram from the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Pomone" of the 20th December, as repeated in your Lordship's telegram to this Embassy No. 184 of the 23rd December, Mr. de Bunsen told Tewfik Pasha that, according to the information now received from Koweït by His Majesty's Government, the Sheikh's flagstaff had only been temporarily employed to make a flag signal to His Majesty's ship "Pomone." No other flagstaff had been at the time available for this purpose, but a new one had since been erected, and the Sheikh's flag, which was identical with that of Turkey, kept flying on his own flagstaff.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs listened with attention to this communication without, however, making any observation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 23.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 10th January, relative to Koweit.

India Office, January 11, 1902.

[Inclosure in No. 23.]

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram, 8th January, replying to your telegram of 6th about Koweit. *January 10, 1902.*
Kemball telegraphs 8th:—

"According to information received from Bussorah, Emir of Nejd was, 4th January, at a place in the desert nine hours from Bussorah. He is believed to be awaiting further communication from Constantinople before deciding further movements, and he expects reinforcements from Nejd, which had begun to arrive. Wratislaw thinks that the Emir still hopes to obtain permission to attack Koweit, and that Sultan's order to return home was not very peremptory. Place mentioned in my telegram of 6th January as 'Lashwan' should be Sehwan, mentioned in my telegram of 1st January."

No. 24.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 13.)

IN continuation of this Office letter of to-day, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th January, respecting the proposed survey of Koweit Harbour.

India Office, January 11, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of the 9th, Koweit. *January 11, 1902.*
Kemball directed to suspend survey.

No. 25.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 9th January, respecting the proposed survey of Koweit Harbour.

India Office, January 11, 1902.

13

Inclosure in No. 25.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, January 9, 1902.

KOWEIT. Your telegram to Resident, Persian Gulf, 26th November last. Foreign Office apprehend that proposed survey in present circumstances might give rise to fresh rumours as to our intentions, and consider it desirable to postpone action for the present.

No. 26.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 15.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, January 14, 1902.

Sir, WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram dated the 14th January, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, relative to the situation at Koweit.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Rear-Admiral Douglas to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bombay, January 14, 1902.

THE following telegram has been received from His Majesty's ship "Pomone," Bushire, 13th January:—

"Amir reported to have been given guns and rifles and to have gone to own country near Lina three days from Koweit. Turks still at Sapwan and reported occupying other places on southern border of Sheikh's territory, but not moving towards Koweit."

No. 27.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 7. Secret.)

Foreign Office, January 15, 1902.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 6 of the 8th January.

A note has been sent to me by the Turkish Ambassador, in which he repeats remonstrances against the action of the British naval officers, and requests that they may be ordered to abstain from interference in the internal affairs of Koweit and to remove the guns which they have landed.

His Excellency has been informed, in reply, that the apprehensions of the British naval officers and the measures which they took were justified by the recent action of the Nakib, which had been subsequently disavowed by the Turkish Government, as well as by the threatening nature of the movements of the Emir of Nejd, who until the last few days has been in the vicinity of Koweit, and who is believed even now not to be far distant from that place; that when they afforded the Sheikh of Koweit the aid necessary for his protection the British naval officers had done no more than co-operate towards the maintenance of the *status quo*; that they had shown a scrupulous avoidance of any action tending to modify the relations of the Sheikh Mubarak towards the Sultan or the political status of Koweit; and that they have received instructions, as soon as it is clear that there is no longer any danger of an attack, to desist from their defensive preparations.

[1518]

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Your Excellency might privately let the Porte know that the Russian Consul at Bushire, who was on board the Russian battle-ship which recently visited Koweit, urged the Sheikh to solicit the assistance of Russia for the maintenance of his independence, and that it is doubtless due to the pressure and support of British ships of war that the offer was declined by him.

No. 28.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Anthopoulos Pasha.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, January 15, 1902.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your *note verbale* of the 9th instant, in which you state that you have been instructed to repeat the remonstrances made by the Imperial Government against the proceedings of the British naval officers at Koweit, and to request that orders may be sent to these officers to remove the guns which they have landed, and to abstain from further interference in the internal affairs of the country.

Your Excellency has been made fully aware, from my previous communication to you and from the communications made to the Imperial Government by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, of the views of His Majesty's Government in regard to Koweit.

In the opinion of His Majesty's Government the apprehensions of the British naval officers and the measures taken by them were justified by the proceedings of the Nakib from Bussorah during his recent visit to Koweit, which have subsequently been disavowed by the Sublime Porte, and by the threatening movements of the Amir of Nejd, who, until the last few days, has been in close proximity to Koweit, and who is believed to be even now at no great distance from it.

In lending the Sheikh of Koweit such assistance as seemed urgently required to protect the town and harbour from attack, the British naval officers did no more than co-operate towards the maintenance of the *status quo* which the Turkish Government have pledged themselves to respect. They have scrupulously abstained from any action tending to modify the political status of Koweit or the Sheikh's relations towards the Sultan, and they have received orders to desist from these defensive preparations as soon as it is clear that there is no longer any danger of an attack.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 29.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 16.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 9, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of two letters, dated the 2nd and 12th November last, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Sphinx," respecting certain rumours current at Bussorah with regard to Koweit.

2. A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Commander Phillipps to Captain Simons.

Sir,

"Sphinx" at Bussorah, November 2, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that since my last letter, no movement of Turkish troops has taken place in this vicinity, and I am informed by His Majesty's Consul here that, as far as he is aware, the only communications between the Turkish Governor of Bussorah and the Mushir (Field Marshal) of the troops at Baghdad (who

is now stopping here) and Abdul Raschid have been that he is not to attack the Sheikh of Koweit, in compliance with direct orders from Constantinople to that effect.

2. I have had to remain at Bussorah five or six days to make some repairs to our main condensers, and I sent a cutter, with a lieutenant in command, to patrol the river between Bussorah and Fao.

3. I am leaving Bussorah on Monday, the 4th instant, to patrol the river and shall return here on the 8th.

4. The health of the ship's company is very good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. PHILLIPPS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Commander Phillipps to Captain Simons.

Sir,

"Sphinx" at Bussorah, November 12, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to send you the following information, which was received at Bussorah by my interpreter from a friend of his. I cannot vouch for the truth of the statements, but it is possible there may be something in it. I have forwarded a duplicate to the Resident.

A special order has been received from the Sultan that the Nakib (Saad Ahmed Pasha), who is a friend of Sheikh Mubarek, is to proceed to Koweit, and endeavour to prevail upon Mubarek to consent to join with the Turkish Government, under a special agreement, which is to be framed according to Mubarek's wishes. The Nakib is also to endeavour to persuade the Sheikh to accompany him to Bussorah on a complimentary visit, to meet the Mushir (Field Marshal) of Baghdad, and to settle matters finally between them both as to this agreement and for peace.

Should Mubarek consent, valuable presents will be sent by the Sultan to the Nakib and Sheikh Mubarek.

If he refuses to listen to the advice of the Nakib, and decline to be a party to the agreement, the Nakib is to leave Mubarek without making any sign or show of displeasure.

The Turkish Government have decided finally not to pursue the conflict with Mubarek, and has informed the Emir of Nejd accordingly (all this is well known to the public at Bussorah).

Up to date, no order has been received to disperse the troops, and they are now distributed between various villages between Bussorah and Koweit, neither has the Emir of Nejd sent his troops away, nor has the Mushir of Baghdad any idea of returning at present.

It is understood that these movements of the Turks are intended to deceive the British, and to get them to withdraw their ships and so close the whole incident, with the Sheikh at peace with them, whilst the Turks would watch the first opportunity to occupy Koweit without very much trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. PHILLIPPS.

No. 30.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 16.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 16, 1902.

I LEARN from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, according to a telegram received two days ago by the Grand Vizier from the Vali of Bussorah, the Emir Ibn Reschid has already returned to his usual residence in the Nejd.

No. 31.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 20, 1902.

FOLLOWING received from Mr. Wratislaw in reply to my telegram informing him that I had been told by Tewfik Pasha of the Emir having arrived in Nejd:—

"I have no news of Emir, but I learn from my Austrian colleague that the Turkish battalions from Samawa are between Nusrieh and Zobeir at Hamsieh. Another battalion from Safwan has gone to Umkasr on an inlet of Gulf about four hours' sail from Koweit."

No. 32.

Question asked in the House of Commons, January 21, 1902.

Mr. J. O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.).—To ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the status quo at Koweit constituted an effective annexation of a portion of the Turkish Empire by Great Britain; and whether any protest had been made by the Turkish Government.

Answer.

There have been mutual requests for explanations as to the reported action of the Turkish authorities and of the British naval officers, and an agreement to preserve the status quo is maintained on either side. The words have, of course, no such meaning as is suggested in the question.

No. 33.

Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulos Pasha.—(Communicated by Anthopoulos Pasha, January 22, 1902.)

(Télégraphique.)

D'APRÈS un récent télégramme du Vali de Bassorah, Ibn Reschid a regagné déjà sa résidence à Haïel. J'en ai déjà avisé Sir N. O'Connor. Veuillez insister auprès du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères pour le rembarquement immédiat des canons débarqués à Koweit.

No. 34.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd January, respecting Koweit.

India Office, January 23, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram received from Bushire, dated 21st:—

"Latest news of Koweit from Bassorah is to effect that battalion has been moved

January 22, 1902.

from Schwan to Umr, on inlet of sea about four hours' sail from Koweit. Wratislaw says that this move stated to be due to bad water at Schwan. Senior Naval Officer informed. Two battalions from Samawa are at Hamsieh, between Nasrieh and Zobeir. No news of Emir of Nejd."

No. 35.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 23, 1902.

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated yesterday a telegram from his Government, of which copy is inclosed herewith, stating that, according to a recent telegram from the Vali of Bassorah, the Emir of Nejd had already reached his residence at Hail, and desiring him to press for the immediate re-embarkation of the guns landed at Koweit.

Lord Lansdowne informed Anthopoulos Pasha, in reply, that the guns would be re-embarked if the British authorities on the spot confirmed the statement that the danger of an attack on Koweit was at an end. I am directed by his Lordship to request that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will inform him whether the guns are still on shore at Koweit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 36.

Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 25.)

*St. Clair, Grand Parade, Eastbourne,
le 24 Janvier, 1902.*

Mon cher Sir Th. Sanderson,

J'AI reçu ici à l'instant même de Constantinople le télégramme ci-clus concernant l'éloignement de l'Émir de Nedjd et que je m'empresse de vous envoyer avec prière de le communiquer à son Excellence le Marquis de Lansdowne.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) C. ANTHOPOULO.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulos Pasha.

(Télégraphique.)

À LA suite d'un télégramme du Vali de Bassorah, je vous informe pour votre gouverne qu'Ibn Rachid s'est rendu dernièrement à Karabin, localité sise à une distance de 124 heures de Bassorah.

No. 37.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 24, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd instant respecting the question of the re-embarkation of the British guns landed at Koweit, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a decypher of telegraphic correspondence which has passed between this Department and the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station on the subject, observing that the result of the Rear-Admiral's inquiry will be communicated to the Foreign Office as soon as received.

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I am to add that Admiralty telegram No. 7 was sent consequent on Foreign Office communication of the 17th instant, inclosing copy of Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 8 of the 16th idem.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. I. THOMAS, *pro Sec.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, January 18, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Minister at Constantinople learns that telegram has been received by Porte from Vali of Bussorah stating Emir had arrived at Nejd. Is this confirmed locally, and, if so, have guns been withdrawn from Jehara?

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

January 19, 1902.

YOUR No. 7.

Report not yet confirmed, but I am inquiring.

No. 38.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 26, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram received from His Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, dated No. 10 of the 25th:—

"Consul-General, Bushire, is informed by Sheikh that he has been summoned to appear personally or by deputy to answer suit brought by his nephews in the Civil Court of Bussorah, and demands our protection in consequence.

"There can be no question as to the competence of the Turkish Courts, and judgment is likely to go by default if the Sheikh fails to put in an appearance. He cannot indefinitely postpone settlement with his nephews, and, in my opinion, will gain nothing by ignoring the proceedings. Later on we might interfere, if necessary, to oppose illegal judgment.

"Yusuf seems to be quite irreconcilable, and I have failed to come to terms with him or even to learn what his terms are."

I incline to Mr. Wratislaw's opinion.

The Sheikh can equally well appeal whether he is represented by a deputy or allows judgment to go by default, but if represented by an intelligent lawyer he will have more chance of succeeding. The suit must be decided by Ottoman law, I fear, as it is one of real estate.

Though the action of the Turkish authorities gives me no solid ground for objection, I can tell Tewfik Pasha that he had assured me that Sheikh would not be molested, and that summoning him at the present moment before a Turkish Tribunal seems like an attempt to intimidate him.

No. 39.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 26, 1902.

SHEIKH of Koweit's law-suit.

Your Excellency's telegram No. 11 of to-day's date.

No. 37*.

Foreign Office to Anthopoulos Pasha.

My dear Ambassador,

Foreign Office, January 25, 1902.

LORD LANSDOWNE desires me to thank you for the telegram you have forwarded to me as to the movements of the Emir of Nejd, and to tell you that we have just heard from the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf that the guns landed at Koweit have been re-embarked. It is clear, however, from his telegram that the movements of the Emir's forces and of the Turkish regular troops in the vicinity of Koweit continue to cause anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

I agree that Sheikh Mubarak should be represented by a competent deputy, and should not ignore the proceedings.

This is evidently another attempt to disturb the *status quo* which we have loyally supported, and you may speak strongly to Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense proposed by you.

No. 40.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 28.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, January 27, 1902.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 25th January, from Admiralty to Commander-in-chief, East Indies, and of the reply, dated the 26th January, respecting affairs at Koweit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, January 25, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th January, *re* Koweit, report date guns re-embarked, and, without questioning propriety of action of Senior Naval Officer, ascertain the reasons which induced him to withdraw them.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bombay, January 26, 1902.

IN answer to your telegram of the 25th January, guns re-embarked 20th January, and remain ready to be replaced at short notice. They were only landed to oppose Amir's attack, which now seems improbable as he is well within the territory he claims, though not as yet reported to have arrived at his capital. I concur in Senior Naval Officer's action. The main difficulty now is, what are precisely Sheikh's boundaries on Amir and Turk's side?

No. 41.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, of the 11th January, relating to the naval Report on the recent visit of the Nakib of Bussorah to Koweit.

India Office, January 27, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, December 21, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the Report submitted by the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf to the

Commander-in-chief, in connection with the recent visit of the Nakib of Bussorah to Koweit.

I also forward translated copies of certain letters, with inclosures, addressed to me by the Sheikh of Koweit, and of my replies.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Captain Simons to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

Koweit, December 14, 1901.

IN amplification of my telegrams as to my recent proceedings in connection with the visit of the Nakib of Bussorah to Koweit in the Turkish sloop "Zuhaf," I beg to report that on the 30th November, when "Pomone" was at Reshar, the "Sphinx" and "Redbreast" being at Koweit, the Political Resident at Bushire informed me that the "Zuhaf" had left Fao with the Nakib of Bussorah for Koweit, conveying (he heard) a threatening communication for the Sheikh from the Sultan, and, after visiting the Resident and telegraphing the news and my intended departure to you, I proceeded immediately to Koweit.

2. The "Pomone" arrived at Koweit at noon on the 1st instant, before the "Zuhaf," which came in about two hours afterwards, flying a Turkish Pasha's flag at the main. The guard was turned up in "Pomone" and "Redbreast" (the "Sphinx" having left again for Bushire on the 30th), and the usual courtesies exchanged; but I waited to salute until I knew who was on board and if he would visit the "Pomone." The "Zuhaf" anchored about a mile from the English ships, and was boarded by my First Lieutenant, Lieutenant Hand, as officer of the guard.

3. Lieutenant Hand, in accordance with my directions, gave my compliments, asked who was on board and his rank, and said I would pay my respects at once and hoped to salute with the proper number of guns later on. He also asked the reason of the Pasha's visit. He was informed the Nakib of Bussorah was on board; and, on asking to see him, the Nakib stated that he was flying a Pasha's flag, as he was representing the Sultan on a mission to the Sheikh of Koweit the particulars of which were private and could not be stated. He did not want a salute: he was landing at once and could not wait for the Captain of the "Pomone's" visit. He was accompanied by the Vali of Bussorah's brother. Lieutenant Hand then informed Nakib that I hoped the "Zuhaf" would not attempt to land any troops or armed men, such as a guard of honour, as I had orders not to permit it; and he replied that there were no troops on board, and no guard of honour was required in Koweit, which was a Turkish place.

4. Lieutenant Hand then returned to "Pomone," and reported the result of his visit to me; and I proceeded at once to "Zuhaf," but the Pasha's flag was struck, and the Nakib, accompanied by the Vali's brother, was in the boat on their way ashore when I reached the "Zuhaf"; I communicated, however, with the Nakib, said I had come to pay my respects and hoped he would return my visit on board, when I should salute him. I also requested that "Zuhaf" would not attempt to land troops or armed men; he replied that "Zuhaf" had no troops, and if time permitted he would return my visit. He then proceeded on shore, where he has a house; and I returned to "Pomone." The Turkish officer of the guard subsequently returned Lieutenant Hand's visit, but the Nakib did not return mine; nor did the Captain of the "Zuhaf" (a Commander) call upon me during their stay.

5. I did not consider it advisable to shift berth and anchor near "Zuhaf" nor to watch her with search-lights at night; but in order that I might be sure she landed no armed men, a careful watch was kept on her by day from the ship, and a guard boat was anchored fairly near her after dark during her stay, returning to "Pomone" before daylight.

6. Next day, the 2nd December, the Queen's birthday, the ships were dressed; and "Pomone" fired a Royal salute at noon. The "Zuhaf" dressed ship also, but is not a saluting ship, and I sent a Lieutenant to thank the Captain for his courtesy. On the same day the Sheikh informed me that the Nakib had presented him with a letter containing telegraphic orders from the Sultan that he must either go to Constantinople to be a member of the Council of State on a high salary, or leave Koweit and live elsewhere on a pension given him, and requesting an early reply. The Sheikh was very much upset at this, the second threatening telegram he has received recently from the Sultan, though his Agent at Bussorah had forewarned him some days before about it; and he had

written on the 30th November by the "Sphinx" to the Political Resident, Bushire, asking if such a message came what he was to say, and if the British Government would help him, and stating that if the British Government did not check and stop the action of the Turks, he would have to join them. The Captain of the "Redbreast" and myself visited the Sheikh, and informed him that he would undoubtedly be supported; but he was much depressed and said that, although he wished for a British Protectorate and to carry out his agreement with the British, he had not yet got any definite assurance from the Political Resident at Bushire, in writing, that the British Government would protect him; and if he did not get one, he would have to make terms with the Turks, whose troops were close to, and of whom he was afraid. Eventually, on my advice, he decided not to reply at once, but to ask for some days to consider his answer, during which a reply to his letter of the 30th from the Resident would arrive, and the British Government could be communicated with by telegram and an answer received.

7. On the morning of the 3rd December, the Sheikh accordingly visited the Nakib, and obtained three days' grace to consider his reply, the Nakib at the same time informing him that if he accepted a Turkish Protectorate all would be well, and he could remain at Koweit, some Turkish soldiers, of course, being stationed there. The Captain of "Redbreast" and I visited the Sheikh on his return from the Nakib, and it was arranged that "Redbreast" should proceed at once to Bushire with a telegram for yourself and the Admiralty, and letters from the Sheikh and myself to the Resident, also a copy of my telegram to you and Nakib's letter. "Redbreast" accordingly left at 1:50 P.M. with orders to await the Government's reply and bring it over at once.

8. Previous to the "Redbreast" leaving, however, the likelihood of the Nakib changing his mind about the three days or the Government's answer not arriving in time was discussed, and the Captain of "Redbreast" and I endeavoured to get the Sheikh to agree to say, in such a case, that he could not reply so soon, but must have time to consider, or to give some other evasive reply; but this he would not undertake to do, saying the Sultan would consider it a refusal, and punish him, in case he was not supported by the British Government; finally, however, he agreed not to make terms with the Turks before the English Government's answer was received, if I threatened to bombard Koweit if he did so, as the Sultan could not then blame him.

9. Next day, on the morning of the 4th December, as I had thought was probable, and possibly due to "Redbreast's" departure, the Nakib sent to say he had changed his mind, and could not give the Sheikh any more time to consider his reply. He wished to leave Bussorah that night, and although the Sheikh again tried to obtain time, the Nakib would not grant it. An appointment was, therefore, made for the Nakib that afternoon at the Sheikh's house; and I again endeavoured, in the forenoon, to persuade the Sheikh to give an evasive reply, but with no effect.

10. At 2:10 in the afternoon the "Sphinx" arrived with an answer to the Sheikh's letter of the 30th from the Resident, who asked me to inform Sheikh that he had telegraphed to the British Government for instructions, and a more definite assurance of support to Sheikh, but meanwhile the Sheikh could rely on the British Government's support for the maintenance of the integrity of Koweit against the Turks, as he had already informed the Sheikh by their orders last August. The Sheikh, however, was not satisfied with this reply, having hoped for an answer in writing from the Resident as to further definite British support; and he consequently refused to undertake to reply himself evasively to the Sultan's message, but wished to say that I would not let him reply, and as this course appeared the only one practicable to keep him from committing himself, I agreed to it and Captain Phillipps, of the "Sphinx," Lieutenant Hand and myself attended the interview between him and the Nakib, which shortly afterwards took place, and in which he stated I would not let him reply, and I confirmed his statement, justifying my action on the grounds of the Sultan's two threatening telegrams being a violation of his agreement with the British Government to preserve the *status quo* at Koweit, which called for my interference. The Nakib then left, and with the Vali's brother went on board the "Zuhaf" that night, and sailed for Bussorah at 6 next morning, the "Sphinx" previously leaving at 3 A.M., with telegrams for yourself and Admiralty, and letters for the Resident reporting what had occurred. I remained at the Sheikh's house all day on the 4th, and slept there, as I did not think it advisable to leave him before the "Zuhaf" sailed, as, without my support and presence, it is quite likely the Nakib would have endeavoured again to persuade him to give a favourable reply.

11. I regret that during the interview with the Nakib in the afternoon of the 4th, a signalman who was making a signal from the shore to the ship, distant 2½ miles, used by permission the Sheikh's flagstaff (the only one there was) and hoisted the semaphore flag instead of the Sheikh's, which was observed by the Vali's brother, who asked if the British

flag was hoisted already. The circumstance was explained, however, to him, and the Nakib seemed quite satisfied. Another flagstaff has since been put up for signalling purposes. The Vali's brother also remarked that they had got no answer from the Sheikh, which they came for, and I am inclined to think he was sent to look after the Nakib, the latter being an Arab, and not a Turk, and also a friend of Sheikh Mubarek's.

12. The "Redbreast" returned on the 6th with the Admiralty telegram of the 4th instant, which I read to the Sheikh, and which gave him great satisfaction; and subsequently the "Sphinx" returned on the 7th with a letter for the Sheikh from the Resident, embodying the substance of the telegram, and which he read to all his principal men.

13. Nothing of importance has since occurred here, but in consequence of this visit of the Nakib, and the proximity of Turkish troops near Bussorah, I am, as already reported by telegram of the 5th December, preparing to defend Koweit, and have fitted six dhows for 3-pr. and two for 7-pr. guns, and propose to fit others if the guns I have asked for are sent up. I am following on the lines of defence mapped out by and already reported to you by Captain Field in his telegrams of the 27th September and the 29th September; and the Sheikh has made two or three shelter-trenches with his men, under instructions from "Pomone," in order that they may know how to construct the others quickly if required, the lines for which are all agreed on; but no more are being made at present, and no guns have been landed or armed men; positions for guns have, however, been selected.

14. Owing to the shallow water and sand-hills, and consequent long range of shell-fire from ships, the town being unwallled and on the mainland, and the Arabs undisciplined, all that could be expected would be to delay the Turks taking the town if they attacked; and only troops or other measures elsewhere would prevent occupation, as I have already telegraphed.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the Resident, Bushire.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

Sheikh Mubarek to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

21st Shaban, 1319 (December 3, 1901).

I SENT you a letter by the Captain of the "Sphinx" on the 19th Shaban (1st December), in which I stated that the "Zuhaf" was expected here with the Nakib of Bussorah, and Mir Allai Najib Beg, brother of the Vali of Bussorah.

The said vessel, with the above officials on board, arrived on Sunday at 2 P.M. On Monday, the Nakib sent me a letter and copy of a telegram received from Constantinople. I have also received a letter from the Vali of Bussorah, brought by his brother, Najib Beg.

I inclose copies of the above-quoted telegram and of Vali's letter. They have asked for reply, and I crave your protection. We—i.e., myself, my children, my subjects, and my country—have placed ourselves under your charge.

I have no reply to give them which may satisfy them, so am awaiting your instructions. They will not perhaps stay here more than another day and so they want a reply. If at this juncture I do not see (any action) on your part to remove these troubles, I shall have no alternative but to join them (Turks).

Inclosure 4 in No. 41.

Ibn Muhammad Mostafa Noori to Sheikh Mubarek.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

12th Tishrin Sani and 15th Shaban, 1319

(November 27, 1901).

YOUR letter, dated 5th Shaban (14th November, 1901), congratulating me on my arrival has been received, and I am much obliged.

We pray to God that He may make all of us serve the Sultan in a manner satisfactory to Him, and this will save [? us] both in this and the other world.

I have perused the reply which you had sent through the Nakib when he first visited you. We sent copy of that letter to the Sultan. Consequently an order has again been issued at Constantinople which you must obey.

I send my brother, Amir Allai Najib Beg, to you, and, in consideration of Islamism and brotherhood, I trust you will listen to the advice and assurances which he (Najib Beg) gives you, so that you may always be in a state which may be pleasing to the Sultan, and may you always be in happiness!

Inclosure 5 in No. 41.

Bash Katib-el-Mabain to the Vali of Bussorah.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

8th Tishrin Sani (November 23, 1901).

By the command of the Sultan—

Tell the Nakib of Bussorah to endeavour to convince Sheikh Mubarek that he must behave in the same way as the Sheikhs (Chiefs) of those parts. Sheikh Mubarek must either agree to come to Constantinople and be attached to the Government Court, or agree to reside in a part near us, and there is assurance of good living and peace for him.

Inclosure 6 in No. 41.

Sheikh Mubarek to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

21st Shaban, 1319 (December 3, 1901)

TO-DAY Mir Allai Najib Pasha (brother of Vali of Bussorah) and the Nakib of Bussorah told me that what would make the Sultan satisfied with me, and allow me to remain in my country without an enemy, and give me a "Farman," is that I should abandon the British Government and that I should retain a few soldiers (Askars) in Koweit, so as to be a Turkish Government sign at Koweit. The soldiers to remain under my orders and not to interfere with Koweit. That if I do not agree to these terms, they (Turks) will send me out of Koweit. That they would send troops against me on account of my friendship with the British Government. They asked for a reply, and I have asked and obtained three days' grace from to-day within which to give them a reply, after consulting with my people. They are pressing for the reply. I await your instructions.

As I have already stated in my previous letter of this date, myself, my children, my subjects, and my country are under British, and seek your protection.

Inclosure 7 in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Sheikh Mubarek.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

December 5, 1901.

I HAVE received the letters which you have sent me regarding the visit of the Nakib and the message from Constantinople which he brought you. When I came to see you in the month of August I conveyed to you a message from my Government, the terms of which you will doubtless remember. This message should, in my opinion, be sufficient to allay your present doubts. I have now telegraphed the present state of affairs to my Government, and have told them what you have written to me. I hope to receive a reply very shortly. Meanwhile, I can only tell you that the Turkish Government have made a distinct promise to the British Government that the *status quo* in Koweit shall be respected. The present action of the Turkish Government seems to me to be directly contrary to this promise, and my advice to you is that you should tell the Nakib that you require ample time to consider the matter, and, further, that it is not to be expected that an immediate reply can be given to an order of so peremptory a nature which requires you to leave your own country. You will, in my opinion, be perfectly within your right in refusing to give an immediate reply in so important a matter, and I strongly counsel you to be patient. No harm can come to you from delay, and it will be a great pity if you take any hasty action now, the consequences of which you may have afterwards to regret.

Inclosure 8 in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Sheikh Mubarek.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

December 6, 1901.

IN continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, which I sent you by His Majesty's ship "Redbreast," I write to inform you that I have now received, for communication to you, a message from my Government. I have asked the Senior Naval Officer to be so good as to communicate this message to you. You will see from this that my Government are prepared to support you, and will not allow an attack by Turkish troops or ships on Koweit. My Government does not wish you to leave Koweit, but desires that you should continue to observe your engagement with them. I trust that this will satisfy you, and that any cause for anxiety which you may have will be removed.

No. 42.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 28th January, on the subject of Koweit affairs.

India Office, January 28, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

January 28, 1902.

KOWEIT. Senior Naval Officer Persian Gulf telegraphs 23rd January:—

"Report by camel messenger Amir five days west from Koweit among Zefir tribes, not in Nejd. Guns re-embarked. Turks advanced and occupied Emgussur 40 miles north-north-east from Koweit on the Khore Abdulla, which Sheikh claims as his territory as well as Safwan, and uses as his port for Bussorah."

No. 43.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 30, 1902.

KOWEIT. Sheikh's lawsuit.

Following from Wratishaw, Bussorah, dated yesterday:—

"Judgment has been given by Court ordering Sheikh's estate at Kutizein, between Bussorah and Fao, to be handed over to his nephews. Sheikh's idea seems to be to get us to fight the case diplomatically and ignore local proceedings. I think, however, he should make 'opposition' at once, and have case reheard.

"Apparently this litigation does not yet affect the Fao estate.

"There is no information to be got here as to the boundaries of Koweit territory. I consider Sheikh has no claim to Sefwan, and think he would have difficulty in proving title to much beyond immediate neighbourhood of his town, though some tribes outside may be under his protection."

No. 44.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 29. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 27, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 11 of the 26th instant, and to your Lordship's telegram No. 11 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw this afternoon, agreed that the moment was ill-chosen for bringing forward a law-suit which had remained dormant for so long, and for summoning the Sheikh of Koweit to appear in person or by deputy before the civil Tribunal of Bussorah. He also admitted that, taken with the recent intrigues of the Nakib and other circumstances, it would have the appearance of an attempt to intimidate Mubarek and be regarded by him as a sort of reprisal for his friendly attitude towards His Majesty's Government.

Tewfik Pasha supposed, however, that the suit had been instituted by the Sheikh's nephews, and he thought it would be difficult for the Ottoman Government to interfere with the action of the judicial authorities and the plaintiff's application unless they were prepared to give the latter pecuniary compensation for withdrawing his suit.

He said he would speak to the Grand Vizier on the subject, and he hoped that some means would be found of delaying further action at present.

I also referred to the news received from our Senior Naval Officer at Koweit, dated the 23rd instant, stating that the Emir of Nejd was reported to be within 5 miles of Koweit, and that the Turkish troops were occupying Emgur and Safwan, places said to be within the territory of the Sheikh.

His Excellency seemed altogether incredulous as to the Emir's presence in the vicinity of Koweit, and repeated the statement he had made to me on the 21st instant to the effect that the Grand Vizier had received news of his arrival at Hail. He promised to make inquiries at the Grand Vizierate at once, and would let me know if the statements I had reported were corroborated. He believed the country to be a desert all about Koweit, and he did not recollect either Emgur or Safwan on the map with which he was familiar. Indeed, the Minister of Justice, Abdurrahman Pasha, who had been in those parts for years, described the neighbourhood of Koweit as a barren wilderness which was of use to no one.

The Minister had not received any report from Costaki Pasha reporting the language of your Lordship respecting your anxiety at the presence of the Emir and Ottoman troops in the vicinity of Koweit. It is, however, most desirable that the Ambassador should not confine himself in reporting your Lordship's language to those remarks which he thinks will be agreeable to the Sultan.

I found an opportunity in the course of conversation of making the Minister aware, confidentially, of the overtures made by Russians to Mubarek. His Excellency had already some inkling of the matter, and I had only to fill up the gaps to give him a complete story, which he will report to the Palace.

He had learnt from Costaki Pasha of the Russian proposals to the Emir of Nejd; and I suspect that the Russian Embassy has already had cognizance of Costaki Pasha's telegraphic report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 45.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 3, 1902.

SHEIKH of Koweit's law-suit: Your Excellency's telegram No. 12 of the 30th ultimo.

His Majesty's Government could hardly give their support to the Sheikh in ignoring the decision of the Turkish Courts in regard to landed property under Turkish jurisdiction.

[1518]

H

Even if the Sheikh were formally under British protection this would be contrary to the Treaty engagements of Great Britain.

As we have very little information it would be desirable that His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah should furnish as soon as possible a full report as to the extent and nature of the Sheikh's landed interest, and also an account of the legal proceedings.

No. 46.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 13.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 4, 1902.

FOLLOWING from Wratislaw, Bussorah, dated the 3rd instant. No. 13:—
"It is reported that the Nejd has been successfully raided by the son of Ibn Feysal, and it now seems that Riyadh has been occupied by him. Abu Saleh is said also to have raised a force in Syria, and to be raiding Emir's tribes from the north.

"If Sheikh does not make opposition to judgment, I believe his nephews intend to seize the estate by force, and have already collected men for this purpose."

The man mentioned in Sir R. Rodd's telegram to your Lordship, No. 82 of the 9th October, is this Abu Saleh.

I telegraphed to Bussorah on the 27th ultimo that I thought the Resident at Bushire should strongly warn Sheikh not to allow his partisans to raid Emir's country, and to advise him to make opposition to judgment before expiration of the legal term. If he appeals subsequently to a Superior Court the final decision will be deferred for long, as the case would ultimately be heard here or at Bagdad, and pending this final decision I could probably induce the Porte to prevent the nephews seizing the estate.

No. 47.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 4th February, regarding Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 5, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

February 4, 1902.

KOWEIT. In answer to inquiry made in connection with telegram repeated to you on 28th January, Kemball telegraphs 31st January as follows:—

"Boundary of Koweit is quite uncertain, and Wratislaw thinks that Sheikh's claims to Umkasr Sehwan could not be maintained. When I last saw Sheikh he told me that Sehwan was his, and he based his claim on fact that Bedouins there owed allegiance to him. Bedouins, however, always change their habitation and allegiance, and I doubt whether Sheikh's claim to Sehwan at any rate could be maintained. There is no doubt, however, that movement of Turks is intended to frighten Mubarak and to * him off from communication with Bussorah."

* A group has fallen out. Evidently "cut."

No. 48.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th February, relating to affairs at Koweit.

India Office, February 7, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

February 7, 1902.

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram of 4th: Koweit.

Kemball telegraphs 4th as follows:—

"I am very doubtful whether Turkish occupation of Umkasr should not be objected to by us on plea that it is belonging to Sheikh of Koweit. It appears to be on Khor Abdulla, and Sheikh says that he uses it as his port for Bussorah. I am trying to get more definite proof of ownership. In any case, I consider that further advance should be prohibited. As I believe that Turks intend to advance nearer the sea, I think it would be well to send gun-boat up the Khor Abdulla and Khor Subbiyeh (see sheet 73 of survey map of South-west Asia), whence it may be possible to ascertain correct position of place and where Turks really are. Question is important, as I believe it possible that a place on the Khor Abdulla may be intended for terminus of German railway. Do you approve my proposal to send gun-boat up these Khors?"

Kemball's proposal seems reasonable. Please telegraph if you agree. It is for consideration whether Turkey should not be pressed to withdraw troops from Koweit border; so long as they remain where they are, we cannot withdraw our ships.

No. 49.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 8, 1902.

KOWEIT. Occupation of Umkasr and Sefwan. Your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 15 and 16.

I should hesitate in making formal demand for withdrawal of Turkish troops without further information in view of Wratislaw's doubts as to Sheikh's right to Umkasr and Sefwan; but if your Lordship approves, I will inform Tewfik Pasha that His Majesty's Government are obliged to send gun-boat to the Khors Abdulla and Subbiyeh in view of this forward movement, which is, moreover, contrary to our understanding. It is important to hinder their coming down to the sea, and the presence of a gun-boat will prevent this even if we do not succeed in prevailing on the Ottoman Government to withdraw their troops.

No. 50.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 8, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 7th instant, inclosing a telegram from the Viceroy of India on the subject of Koweit.

In this telegram the Viceroy forwards and supports a suggestion of Colonel Kemball that a British gun-boat should be sent up the Khor Abdulla and Khor Subbiyeh with a view of ascertaining the correct position of Umkasr as well as the

whereabouts of the Turkish troops; and his Excellency further observes that it is a matter for consideration whether Turkey should not be pressed to withdraw her troops from the Koweit border.

I am to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that Lord Lansdowne sees no objection to sending a British gun-boat as proposed, provided that her visit is merely for the purpose of observation and report.

I am, further, to inclose copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, containing his Excellency's observations on the Viceroy's message, which was repeated to him.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in Sir N. O'Connor's opinion that a formal demand for the withdrawal of the Turkish troops would be inexpedient, and proposes to approve of the representation to the Porte suggested in his Excellency's telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 51.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, February 11.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)
Sir,

Bussorah, January 10, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 4 of the 7th January, I have the honour to report that, according to the last news I have been able to obtain of Ibn Reschid's movements, he had reached Ellakteh, about two days' journey from Zobeir. He was said to be proceeding to the Rahimieh Wells, in the Toaleh district, through which the ill-defined frontier between Nejd and Koweit runs. Rahimieh is not far from Hafer, and if the news be true the Emir is practically returning to his former position.

I have not been able to obtain any confirmation of the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Ibn Reschid is on his way back to Nejd. Locally he is not supposed to have any intention of returning home, but it is said that, though he may respect the order of the Sultan to refrain from attacking Mubarek, he will for some time yet continue to maintain a land blockade of Koweit.

While at Berjesieh, about 4 miles from Zobeir, where he stayed three days, the Emir was visited by many of the principal people of this place, but the Vali and Mushir did not call upon him in person, nor did the Emir come into the town. His treasurer, Sebban, however, stayed some days in Bussorah, and Yussuf-el-Ibrahim was continually backwards and forwards on his usual mission of stirring up mischief.

Six of the Emir's slaves, who fled from him and took refuge at this Consulate, were procured manumission papers and certificates of Ottoman nationality in the usual course, and I fear that this occurrence will not render their master any better disposed towards us.

Of the 4,000*l.* which, as I reported, were paid to the Emir, 1,000*l.* were given in the form of provisions. It is rumoured that a further present of 900 rifles is to be made to him.

The attitude of the Turkish Government is not quite plain, nor is the present Vali so communicative regarding the instructions he receives from Constantinople as was his predecessor, Mohsin Pasba. I fully believe that Ibn Reschid has been ordered not to attack Koweit, and it is also probable that he has been told he had better go home. But it is doubtful whether the orders, particularly the second, were given in such a peremptory manner that obedience was inevitable.

The occupation by a battalion of Turkish soldiers of Sevwan (Asfuan) would seem to indicate that the Sultan intends to hold effectively more of this district than he has done hitherto, and I hear further that a body of troops from Nasrieh has occupied Hamsieh, a place between Nasrieh and Zobeir. Grain merchants inform me that their trade has been paralyzed for the moment because the Government has taken up so many vessels on the Euphrates, and it looks as if there will be a considerable shifting of troops after Baïram.

For the present the desert routes are quite unsafe, and yesterday a crier was sent round Zobeir to proclaim that anybody attempting to go to Koweit would assuredly be

killed and his property taken. The crier was sent by the Chief of the caravanmen, acting, I understand, by order of Khalid-el-Own, who is the Emir's chief supporter at Zobeir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 52.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 8th February, relating to affairs of the Sheikh of Koweit.

India Office, February 10, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, February 8, 1902.

KOWEIT. Instruct Kemball to strongly advise Sheikh to make opposition to judgment regarding Fao estates before expiration of legal term, and to warn him seriously against allowing his partisans to raid Emir's territory.

No. 53.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 12.)

Sir,

India Office, February 12, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, respecting the recent advance of Turkish troops in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

In reply, I am to inclose a copy of a telegram which his Lordship addressed to the Governor-General on the 11th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, February 11, 1902.

YOURS 7th. Koweit. Kemball's proposal to send gun-boat up Khors Abdulla and Subbiyeh approved, but only for purposes of observation and report. It is not considered expedient without further information to demand withdrawal of Turkish troops, but O'Connor will inform Porte that forward movements of this kind are contrary to our understanding and oblige us to send gun-boat.

No. 54.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 17.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1902.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 14 of 8th February.

I approve the communication which you propose to make to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[1518]

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The following is the substance of a telegram which has been sent to the Viceroy of India:—

"Koweit. Your telegram of 7th instant. The proposal of Colonel Kemball to send a gun-boat to Khors, Subbiyeh, and Abdullah, is approved, but only for the purpose of making observations and reporting.

"Without further information it is not considered expedient to demand the withdrawal of the Turkish troops, but Sir Nicholas O'Connor will inform the Turkish Government that we are obliged to send a gun-boat, as forward movements of this nature are contrary to our understanding."

No. 55.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th February, regarding the affairs of the Sheikh of Koweit.

India Office, February 12, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram of the 7th. Koweit.

Kemball telegraphs 9th:—

"Sheikh says that Umkass was originally occupied by a subject of Koweit forty years ago. As regards Sevwan, he says that it is permanently inhabited by eight or ten families who have been there forty years, and have always paid some sort of tribute to Koweit. He says these two places have always been considered within the limits of Koweit, and have never till now been occupied by the Turks. I think we might protest against Turkish occupation of these places, and meanwhile visit of gun-boat may have useful effect."

February 11, 1902.

No. 56.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received February 15.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 13, 1902.

WITH reference to your semi-official letter of the 8th instant, transmitting a copy of a telegram, dated the 8th instant (No. 14), from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to Koweit, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will represent to the Secretary of State, in reference to the proposal to send a gun-boat up Khors Abdulla and Subbiyeh, that the latter channel is not navigable for gun-boats.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 57.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 19.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 15, 1902.

KOWEIT. With reference to my telegram No. 17 of February 12.

I have received a communication from the Admiralty to the effect that gun-boats cannot navigate the Khor Subbiyeh.

31

No. 58.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 13, 1902.

I HAVE spoken to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of my telegram No. 14 of the 8th instant, as authorized by your Lordship in your telegram No. 17 of the 12th instant.

Tewfik Pasha professed entire ignorance, which was shared by the Grand Vizier, as to the occupation of Umkass and Sahwan, the geographical position of which he did not even know. Assuming, however, as I was inclined to do, that they were places where the authority of the Sheikh of Koweit hitherto prevailed, he did not dispute my point that their occupation was not in harmony with the understanding between our respective Governments. He promised to ask the Vali of Bussorah how matters stood and to communicate to me his answer as soon as received. If, however, I had any latent fear in my mind that the occupation of these places was directed against the Sheikh and with a hostile purpose, he was most anxious to disabuse me of the idea. He could assure me most positively, speaking as Tewfik Pasha and not as Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Imperial Government had given up all idea of attacking Koweit, and I might make my mind quite easy on this point. I was aware, he said, that the Bagdad Railway Company at first proposed to continue their line to Koweit and to make it the terminus of the railway; but, owing to the difficulties that had arisen with us, the Germans feared that it might give rise to complications, and, in one way or another, lead to the seizure by a foreign Power of a port or station in the Persian Gulf. They had, therefore, taken out Koweit from their programme, but they had not renounced the idea of abutting on the Persian Gulf, and, when the Ottoman Government asked them to end the railway at Bussorah, they had invariably replied that they must get to the Gulf. There was now an idea that England was bent on blocking their access to the sea, and, although he did not know it for a fact, it occurred to him that possibly the occupation of Umkass, which I described as not far from the shore, was due to the desire to keep a free passage to the sea. He did not suppose that England intended to prevent the railways getting access to the Gulf, and he sincerely hoped it was not the case.

I said that there was no reason for this supposition; that up to this moment His Majesty's Government had raised no objection to a terminal station at Koweit, and I did not know that they would do so, provided the railway went there with their approval and the consent of the Sheikh.

I told Tewfik Pasha that, in any case, the reports of the occupation of the two places I had named was disturbing our local authorities, and that very probably a gun-boat would be sent to Khor Abdullah to investigate matters, unless he was able to tell me very soon that the Turkish troops had been withdrawn.

There is an article in the Turkish press, translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, which I have reason to believe is based on information furnished by the Ministry of Public Works, and which indicates Kazima in the Gulf of Koweit as the terminus of the railway. This place is, I believe, within the radius of the zone over which the Sheikh holds authority, and, if I am correct in this supposition, I think it would be well that he should, without delay, affirm his authority there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Extract from the "Sabah" of February 11, 1902.

(Translation.)

Report drawn up by the Anatolian Railway Company.

THE new Bagdad Railway will not only be a line of more than local importance, but will in all probability be made the principal highway of communication and correspondence between Europe, Asia Minor, and the Far East.

In order to secure the transport of the numbers of travellers and the large quantities of mails over this line, it is necessary to demonstrate the advantages of rapid means of transport which the Railway must be able to offer by providing for a service of fast trains; this object can only be obtained by taking the necessary measures for constructing the line in a way which will permit of this special rapid service.

In view of this construction, the speed of 35 kilom., which is stipulated for in former Concessions, has in this instance been replaced by new conditions, which impose the maintenance of a speed which will practically be equal to 90, and even more, kilometres per hour between stations.

It has, therefore, been necessary, in the case of this Concession, to follow the system adopted on the Prussian trunk lines. The concessionnaire is called upon to use rails weighing 37 kilog. 240 grammes per metre, instead of 30 kilog.; the rails, of 12 metres in length, are to be of 58 kilog. 300 grammes, instead of 50 kilog., in weight, and they must be fixed on to ten steel sleepers. The method of fastening the rails to the sleepers by means of chairs, and the strengthening of these fastenings, and which have not been adopted on other lines in the country, are to be used in the building of this line, and, in fact, the general construction will closely follow the Prussian system in every detail. It is also necessary to note that, besides the depth of ballast stipulated for in the "Cahier des Charges," millions of extra cubic metres of sand, gravel, and stone will have to be used to cover the increased breadth of the earthworks of the permanent way. The radii of all the curves have been increased from 275 to 500 metres, and the gradients have been reduced to 18 millim., from 25 millim., and all bridges, points, &c., are to be very solidly constructed.

The engagements entered into by the concessionnaire to establish an express service of trains over and above the ordinary service stipulated for in the Convention, will necessarily involve an increased expenditure, both in the purchase of heavier and more costly locomotives and carriages than those at present used, and also in the increased consumption of fuel.

The cost of transporting building material either from Constantinople or from Bussorah, over long distances, will also involve an expenditure which will bear no comparison to that incurred on other lines. Besides, the running of express trains with very few stoppages will necessitate the permanent employment of a considerable night and day staff along the whole line.

Apart from the very heavy expenditure in wages during the construction of the railway, it will be necessary to foresee great difficulties in procuring workmen, who will not easily be found in some of the parts of Mesopotamia; continual interruptions will undoubtedly occur, owing to the inability of the men to work during the extremes of heat and cold.

It is most important to note that the mails from London via Constantinople, will reach Bussorah (? Bombay) in ten days twenty-three and a-half hours, whilst mails sent by way of the Suez Canal will take fourteen days sixteen hours. Thus, allowing for a six hours' delay both at Constantinople and at Kazima, the time gained by the Bagdad route will be equal to three days and sixteen and a-half hours. This calculation of time is based on the present rate of speed of the fastest mail-boats yet built. It is therefore to be foreseen that unless the Steam-ship Companies who are engaged in the traffic do not considerably raise the rates of passage and transport of mails, they will be unable to make any attempts to build vessels of greater increased speed than those at present in use.

The rates at present charged by these Companies are considerably in excess of those which the Bagdad Railway will demand, so that it can safely be predicted that the greater portion of canal traffic will most assuredly pass over the Bagdad line.

The traffic will be very great and the revenue to be derived will necessarily be very important, and it is therefore essential that this railway should be constructed on lines which will enable it to cope with the demands which will be made. This traffic will also pass over the lines of the Oriental Railway Company, so that the Constantinople-Bellova section of 562 kilom., in which the Government has a direct interest, will profit considerably.

Amongst the concessions which the Company has made, it will suffice to mention the following:—

The fares for soldiers, officers, and gendarmerie have been reduced from a third to a fourth, and soldiers are allowed 30 kilog. of baggage free.

Facilities are to be given for the construction of telegraph lines by the Government.

Military sidings are to be provided by the Company.

The Company undertakes to build, at its own expense, the ports mentioned in the Convention.

The personnel to be employed is, as far as possible, to be of Turkish nationality, and the Company undertakes to establish institutions for the instruction of employés in the working and management of the different branches of the railway service.

No. 59.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 14, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just received a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, stating that the Vali has urged the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews to accept arbitration, and that he also hears that the Court has been ordered to suspend legal proceedings.

The nephews appear to have refused arbitration, but, nevertheless, the proposal and the instructions sent to the Vali show considerable goodwill on the part of the Ottoman Government, which I propose duly acknowledging.

Mr. Wratishaw adds that the Sheikh has sent his son to Kutizein.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 60.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 19.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 19, 1902.

KOWEIT. Military Commander in Nejd has informed Minister of War that a demonstration has been made on the coast by a British gun-boat, which has also placed three staffs on the mainland opposite the Island of Ajeir.

Commander of VIth Army Corps at Bussorah has reported to Minister of War that Sheikh Mubarek is inciting the Arab tribes to make a descent on Katif, and that he has cut the road between Nejd and Bussorah.

I am informed by the Grand Vizier that the Ottoman Government is convinced that His Majesty's Government would not sanction or approve these proceedings as contrary to the assurance they had given to maintain the *status quo* at Koweit, which arrangement was not intended to prejudice the territorial rights of the Sultan; and his Highness asks that orders be sent to restrain the Sheikh and prevent such occurrences.

The Sheikh ought to be severely spoken to, as he is probably in collusion with the raiders mentioned in my telegram No. 13 of the 4th instant.

We ought to take note of this appeal and act on it; it is important, as implying recognition of our predominant influence over the Sheikh.

I should be glad of definite information on the other point, though the gun-boat is probably only engaged in coast surveying.

No. 61.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 19, 1902.

KOWEIT. Following from Mr. Wratishaw, dated the 19th:—

"A collision between Turkish troops and Arabs is reported to have taken place at Umkasr. No details have yet reached me, but 200 soldiers, proceeding presumably to the scene of the incident, left here for Zobeir yesterday."

No. 62.

*Foreign Office to India Office.**

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 19, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a decypher of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of affairs in Koweit.†

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne may be favoured with Lord George Hamilton's observations on this message at his early convenience.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 63.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 18th February, relating to the Turkish occupation of Umkasr and Sefwan.

India Office, February 20, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Lord G. Hamilton to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

February 18, 1902.

YOUR foreign Secret telegram of the 11th February. Koweit. Foreign Office as intimated to O'Connor opinion that grounds for protest are insufficient.

No. 64.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received February 21.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 21, 1902.

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, having had before them your letter of the 19th instant, inclosing copy of a telegram from Sir N. O'Connor on the subject of affairs at Koweit, in which it is stated that a British gun-boat has placed 3 staffs on the mainland opposite the Island of Ajeir, and has made a demonstration on the coast, desire me to request you will inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that none of His Majesty's ships are in that particular locality, but that they understand the Indian Government surveying-vessel "Investigator" is surveying the channel between Bahrein Islands and the mainland, and my Lords suggest that reference should be made to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. J. THOMAS.

Pro. Secretary.

* Also to Admiralty

† No. 61.

No. 65.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 23, 1902.

KOWEIT. Following received from Mr. Wratislaw, dated No. 19 of the 22nd, with reference to incident reported in my telegrams Nos. 17 and 20:—

"Incident reported in my telegram No. 18 was quite unimportant, but the Turks have increased the garrison and the authorities are much disturbed by a visit to the place of a survey party from a British war ship.

"I hear from Minister for Foreign Affairs that Vali of Bussorah reports that Umkasr and Sefwan are under jurisdiction of Kaimakam of Zobeir and are close to that place, and that all is quiet now at Umkasr, but that fifty soldiers were recently sent there to maintain order."

No. 66.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received February 24.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 24, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 24th instant, from the Commander-in-chief, East Indies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Rear-Admiral Douglas to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bombay, February 24, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram received from Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, Koweit, 22nd February:—

"'Sphinx' went up Khorabdalla and reports Turks in occupation of Safwan and Umkasr and Boohiyan. Charts very incorrect. Umkasr, which is opposite north-west corner of Wamba Island, has makings of very good deep-water harbour and with greater facilities for shipping and possible terminus of railway than Koweit. Arabs considerably irritated at continued advance of Turks.

"'Catinat' (French) arrived 20th February and sailed to-day for Bushire."
(Government of India informed.)

No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 27.)

Sir,

India Office, February 26, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, asking for his Lordship's observations on Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 19 of the same date.

In reply, I am to state that it appears from the correspondence forwarded with my covering letter of the 18th November, 1901, that orders had been issued by the Government of India on the 21st October, 1901, for the resurvey of the Persian Gulf; and it is understood that the Indian marine vessel "Investigator," which is not a ship of war, has been engaged on that business.

With regard to the Turkish complaint as to Sheikh Mubarak's proceedings, I am

to request that you will draw Lord Lansdowne's attention to the telegram addressed by the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General on the 8th February; and to inclose a copy of a further telegram which his Lordship has now addressed to the Government of India.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, February 25, 1902.

TURKISH Government complains that British gun-boat has placed three staffs on mainland opposite Island of Ajeir, and made demonstration along coast. Also that Mubarak is in collusion with and inciting Arabs to attack Katif, and has cut road between Bussorah and Nejd (see my telegram of 8th February, which was based on Wratislaw's report to O'Connor of raids into Nejd by son of Bin Faisal and Saleh Abu, presumably with Mubarak's connivance). The Turks' complaint of survey of their coast by man-of-war perhaps refers to operations of "Investigator," which might be directed to use caution and avoid misunderstanding. O'Connor observes that the other complaint against Sheikh's connivance implies our predominant influence, and deserves to be noted and acted upon.

No. 68.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 24, 1902.

IN the course of conversation with M. Marinitsch, whom I had requested to ascertain unofficially the views of the Turkish Minister of War on the ownership of Umkasr and Sefwan, his Excellency made the following observations, which I report only as showing the private opinion of an Ottoman Minister on the Koweit question:—

England desires to possess Koweit, which really belongs to the Sultan, in order to have a basis of operations in case of conflict with Russia, which country intends to push a railway across Persia to a port on the Persian Gulf—probably Bunder Abbas. Being unable to resist this advance in Persia, where her influence has almost ceased, England falls back on Koweit.

His Excellency had no knowledge of the occupation of Umkasr and Sefwan, but attached no importance to the matter, as Turkey considers Koweit itself as belonging to her. As, however, the Sublime Porte had promised to respect the *status quo*, the promise would, of course, be kept.

The Minister of War did not intimate that this would be done by withdrawing the Turkish troops which had occupied Umkasr and Sefwan, but the Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me that the advance of the Turkish force was made in order to keep in check some Arab tribes who were causing disturbances, and that only a company of infantry had been sent to Umkasr or Elhasr.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 69.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 27th February, relating to Koweit affairs.

India Office, March 1, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

February 27, 1902.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of the 25th: Koweit.

Kemball telegraphs 25th:—

"Sphinx" has arrived, and reports that Turkish officer with forty soldiers were at Umkasr, which is on the creek near head of Khor Abdul. Commander landed, and, with permission of the Turkish officer, visited his camp. While he was there, some Arabs, who were encamped about 2 miles distant, approached, and Turks appear to have thought attack was intended. Commander, however, reassured both sides, and Arabs dispersed. On south-east of Booby Island a post of one officer and twenty Turkish soldiers were found. They had been there fortnight, and evidently intended to occupy the place permanently, as brick house is being built. Full report will be sent next mail, but, meantime, I do not think Turkish advance to Booby Island can be viewed by us with equanimity. The future importance of Khor Abdul appears to be great, and it should be, I think, considered by us as within Koweit limits. It, with Booby Island, is claimed by Mubarak, who is much disturbed by Turkish occupation."

No. 70.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 4, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs to-day, No. 22 of the 1st March, as follows:—

"Six infantry battalions arrived up to date; destination kept secret. Vali and Mushir communicate direct with Sultan on Koweit question and alone know his plans. Military posts will, I believe, be established at Sobieh and other points towards Koweit. I think the Sheikh's claim to Sobieh might be sustained. It is on the same channel as Umkasr, but considerably nearer Koweit."

No. 23 of the 3rd March:—

"Troops are being embarked on gun-boat, which will leave for Katif to-day or to-morrow."

"The Sheikh of Koweit will probably shortly be served with judgment of Court in the suit brought against him by his nephews."

No. 71.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 34.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 4, 1902.

I SHOULD be glad to have your Excellency's observations on the Viceroy's telegram to Lord George Hamilton of the 27th ultimo, repeated to you in my telegram No. 33 of to-day's date.

Are you of opinion that it would be possible for us to show that either Umkasr or Bubian Island lie within the Sheikh of Koweit's territory?

Do you think that we could reasonably contend that the activity shown by the Turks at these places is a violation of the *status quo* which concerns Koweit?

No. 72.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 6, 1902.

KOWEIT. Your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 33 and 34 of the 4th instant.

I never supposed that the Sheikh's authority extended over Bubian Island, and I have no arguments in support of his claim.

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Mr. Wratislaw understands that the Sheikh claims that Umkasr has in favourable seasons been cultivated by people from Koweit, and that until recent events the Turks did not exercise authority there; but these are poor arguments in favour of Sheikh's claim. It is, moreover, further from Koweit than from Zobeir. If the recent survey proves the channel between the mainland and Bubian Island navigable, Mr. Wratislaw thinks the place may prove important.

With the knowledge we possess, I think it will be difficult to maintain that the *status quo* at Koweit has been disturbed by the action of the Ottoman authorities at either of these places.

The Sheikh's authority over Koweit, including the Bay and Kasima, should certainly, in my opinion, be maintained; but to block, practically as far as Fao, all access to the Gulf would lead to trouble I fear.

No. 73.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 6th February, 1902, relating to the estates of the Sheikh of Koweit, situated in Turkish territory.

India Office, March 7, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Bushire, January 18, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter with inclosures received by me from Sheikh Mubarek, of Koweit, on the subject of his properties situated within Turkish territory. There is, I fear, little doubt that the Turks will now make some definite move with regard to these properties, and will probably proceed to sequester them and make them over to Mubarek's nephews or otherwise dispose of them.

I have been unable to ascertain the exact value of the properties, but my predecessor, (*vide* his letter dated the 30th January, 1899) was given to understand that they brought in an annual revenue of about 6,000*l.* The value of the properties is undoubtedly very large, and it is upon the income derived from them that the Sheikhs of Koweit mainly depend. There is, further, I believe, little doubt that Sheikh Mubarek's nephews have a just title to a share in these properties, and I have on several occasions advised the Sheikh to come to an understanding with his nephews in this matter.

The Sheikh has always declared his willingness to do so, but has stated that his nephews, instigated by his implacable enemy, Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, have refused to entertain any proposals for a settlement.

I also forward copy of a letter from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah on the subject of these properties, and I trust that, when the occasion arises, His Majesty's Government will be pleased to exert such diplomatic influence as they are able to command at Constantinople to prevent the arbitrary seizure of the Sheikh's properties.

I have replied to Sheikh Mubarek's present letter, informing him that I have represented what he has said to you, and advising him to be ready to depute a representative to attend the Kazi's Court at Bussorah to defend his rights should the case be brought to trial.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL,
Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Sheikh Mubarek-el-Sabah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

29 Ramzan, 1319 (*January 10, 1902*).

REGARDING the persons who were laying claims on my Bussorah property the former Walis had written to me several letters, and I had replied to them. A letter had been received by me from Enis Pasha, a former Wali of Bussorah, in which he had informed me of the order received from the Sultan to the effect that the matter should be inquired into by some well-known men of Bussorah in the presence of myself and the opposite party. I had accepted this course and had written to the Wali accordingly, but the opposite party did not agree to it, because this object was merely to cause difficulties.

Later on Hamdi Pasha and Mohsin Pasha, joint Walis, had written to me on the subject, and I had expressed my consent, but the opponent refused. Hamdi Pasha and Mohsin Pasha had then written to me about this refusal, and this letter is in my possession and will be produced with other letters when necessary. At present I have received a letter from the Kazi of Bussorah which is due to their (the opponents) intrigues and to the enmity of the Turks on account of my having placed myself under your protection.

I have never before received any letter from the Kazi in this matter. I have replied to the letter, and now inclose, for your information, a copy of my reply and of the Kazi's letter. My Bussorah agent wrote me after my letter reached Bussorah that they (the authorities) intend to appoint a "Vakil Musakhar" (any person to represent an absent party in a law-suit) and give a decision against me; and the present Wali had telegraphed to Constantinople asking for instructions as to what he should do in case the Kazi's Court should issue an order against me and ask it to be served on me, as I had placed myself under British protection.

This is what has happened. I request you to keep your eyes on my property in Bussorah and protect it from spoliation and arbitrary action. This had been arranged with your predecessor. I am willing to abide by the right course.

Inclosure 3 in No. 73.

The President (Kazi) of the Bidayet (Civil) Court, Bussorah, to Sheikh Mubarek-el-Sabah.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

12 Ramzan, 1319 (*December 24, 1901*).

YUSUF DIAB EFFENDI, the Attorney for the sons of Mahomed Sabah, has filed a suit against you in the Bidayet Court, Bussorah. It has, therefore, become necessary to serve on you the plaint (and summons) asking you to appear in the Court either in person or by an attorney to protect your right. The papers will reach you by the hand of Jasim Agha, an official of the Court. Please keep one copy, and return to Jasim Agha the second copy duly sealed by you.

Inclosure 4 in No. 73.

Sheikh Mubarek-el-Sabah to the President of the Bidayet Court, Bussorah.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

17 Ramzan, 1319 (*December 29, 1901*).

YOUR letter, dated the 12th Ramzan, 1319, has been received.

In the matter mentioned by you, the Sultan had already issued an order, and the [Government of the] vilayet had made communications, to which I have given proper replies.

At present I should receive an order (a communication?) from the vilayet, so that I may return an answer.

Inclosure 5 in No. 73.

Consul Wratislaw to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, November 24, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, forwarding copies of a letter, and its inclosures, received from Sheikh Mubarek, of Koweit.

It is evident that the Turkish authorities intend to use the claims of Mubarek's nephews as a means of exerting pressure upon him, and unfortunately his position is in this respect very vulnerable. The Fao property is extremely valuable, and is situated entirely within the jurisdiction of the Turkish Courts.

I have made cautious inquiries at the Land Registry Office, and it appears that the Fao property is not registered there at all, and that the modern title-deeds now issued have never been granted to its owners.

In old times the Cadi used to grant title-deeds ("hojet") of a sort, and this appears to have been done in the present case, but so long ago that I have been unable to ascertain in whose name the property stands. Doubtless the "hojet" is in Mubarek's possession, and I think it must have been granted to his and the late Sheikh's father. In this case, the property would descend to all the brothers or their representatives *per stirpes*.

There are, besides, three properties of comparatively small value at Kootizein, Aboul Khassib, and Gherdilan, in this district; but these were duly registered in the name of Sheikh Mahomed-el-Sabah, and have been transferred to his sons in the ordinary course.

It was, I believe, Mubarek's idea that this should have sufficed to satisfy their claims; but the fact that they have succeeded to their father's private estates does not appear a just obstacle to their receiving a share of the family property.

In Mubarek's letter of the 31st October, 1901, to Abdul Latif Pasha, he seems to rely on the past disfavour of the claimants in the eyes of the Turkish Government and his own former position of protégé, ignoring the fact that the position is now reversed.

In conformity with the instructions of His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I am endeavouring to find out from Yussuf-el-Ibrahim what terms would be accepted in amicable settlement of the dispute; but up to the present I have only been able to elicit from him accusations against Mubarek, and no proposals, reasonable or otherwise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 6 in No. 73.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Bushire, January 18, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the letter, received from the Assistant Political Agent at Bahrein, regarding the advent of a Commissary on behalf of the Amir of Nejd on a visit to Sheikh Jasem-bin-Thani, of Katr, and other Chiefs of Bedouin tribes.

I have, &c.
(For Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball),
(Signed) W. S. DAVIES, *First Assistant,
Officiating Political Resident, Persian Gulf.*

Inclosure 7 in No. 73.

Mr. J. C. Gaskin to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Sir,

Bahrein, January 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that a Commissary with two attendants from the Amir of Nejd arrived by the steam-ship "Pachumba" on the 7th instant from

Bussorah, with the intention of proceeding to Katr with letters from the Amir and the Wali of Bussorah to Sheikh Jasim-bin-Thani. The Commissary, whose name is Saad-al-Hazeni, is the Amir of Boreida.

For some months past, it appears, the Amir of Nejd has been trying to win over the tribes residing on the Turko-Arabian shores on the Persian Gulf, and the first to go over to him are reported to be the Ajman tribes. The Commissary has been deputed to make, through Sheikh Jasim, a compact with the Menasir, Murra, and Beni Hajir tribes inhabiting Katr, and when his business in Katr is concluded, he will proceed to Al Hassa, where he will make similar agreements with other divisions of the same tribes in that district with the help of the Turkish authorities.

From this information it would appear that the Turks are encouraging the Amir of Nejd to collect all the Arab tribes under his standard with a view to a future attack in force on Koweit territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. CALCOTT GASKIN,
Assistant Political Agent.

Inclosure 8 in No. 73.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Telegraphic.)

Calcutta, February 4, 1902.

YOUR letter 12, 18th January.

Proceedings of Amir of Boreyda call for further inquiry since Turkish jurisdiction is not acknowledged south of Katif. Cannot Gaskin procure copies of letters given to emissary by Amir of Nejd and Wali of Bussorah or other evidence showing object of his visit and extent to which Turks are concerned in the mission?

No. 74.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 7, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you the decypher of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* relative to the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit to Booby Island and Umkasr and the proceedings of the Turkish authorities at those places.

Lord Lansdowne entirely concurs in Sir N. O'Connor's views as stated in his Excellency's telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 75.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th March, relating to the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit to Booby Island.

India Office, March 8, 1902.

* No. 72.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram of 27th February: Koweit.

Kemball telegraphs 3rd:—

"Mubarek claims Boobyah on ground of his people occupying it annually for fishing and paying him rent. Turks, if not checked, will probably next advance to Soobeah, and I think that they should be told to leave Boobyah forthwith, even if occupation of Umkasr cannot be protested against."

March 7, 1902.

No. 76.

Consul Wratishlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 10.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, February 8, 1902.

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your Excellency's telegram No. 7 of the 4th February, I have the honour to submit a Report on the extent of Sheikh Mubarek-el-Sabah's landed interests in this vilayet, and of the legal proceedings to which they have given rise.

At the time of the murder of the late Sheikh, Mohammed Pasha-el-Sabah, there were five estates belonging to the El-Sabah family of Koweit, situated respectively at Fao, Sofieh (within the Fao district), Kutezzein, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiyeh (Aboul Kassib).

All are now freehold (Mulk), though the Kutezzein estate was originally "Mirieh." Their estimated revenues are as follows:—

	£ T.
Fao	8,000
Sofieh	1,120
Kutezzein	320
Gherdilan	400
Ajerawiyeh	320
Total	10,160

The above revenues are given me as the net receipts, but without deduction of the Government tax. I am inclined to think that the values of Gherdilan and Ajerawiyeh are over-estimated.

Kutezzein, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiyeh were registered in the land registry office at Bussorah in the name of Shiekh Mohammed-el-Sabah. The estates at Fao and Sofieh were not so registered, having been acquired before the office was established. I was assured at the registry office that they were held in virtue of a Hojet-el-Kadi, or title-deeds granted by the Kadi, but Mubarek's legal agent here states that this is not the case. It seems very unlikely, however, that no documents should exist to prove the ownership of such valuable estates.

The persons entitled to a share in the above properties appear to be Mubarek and his brothers or their representatives. These are Mubarek, Mohammed's representatives, Jerrah's representatives, Jaber (who is with Mubarek at Koweit), and Hamoud's representatives (who are also at Koweit; Hamoud was killed in battle with Ibn Reshid last year).

There is also, I believe, a lunatic brother with Mubarek who does not seem to count. Nor does anyone appear to raise any claim on behalf of possible sisters. If, therefore, the family estates are to be divided equally amongst the brothers, it would seem that Mubarek's side should get three-fifths, and the opposition, i.e., the children and widows of Mohammed and Jerrah, now in Bussorah, two-fifths. A complication is, however, introduced into the question by the fact that Kutezzein, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiyeh were registered in the name of Mohammed-el-Sabah, and so are now the property of his heirs alone according to Turkish law, and have been duly transferred to their names. The said heirs also claim their share in the family property at Sofieh and Fao, on an equality with the heirs of Jerrah, the heirs of Hamoud, Mubarek, and Jaber.

I believe, however, that Mubarek asserts that these three estates, though registered in Mohammed's name, were bought with family funds and should go into the mass; and I am informed that a dispute arose concerning this point during Mohammed's lifetime, and was finally settled by a deed drawn up through the intervention of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim. If so, Mubarek probably holds the document, and should produce it.

After the murder of Mohammed and Jerrah, their heirs sought asylum in Bussorah, and ever since, in conjunction with Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, Mohammed's brother-in-law, have been moving the Turkish Government to interfere with a view to the distribution of the property. Yussuf, however, was made an outlaw on account of his abortive attack on Koweit, and Mubarek, until recently, was in favour. So the nephews made no progress in the prosecution of their claim. They were not even able to obtain possession of the Kutezzein estate, which Mubarek still administers, and the Law Courts were forbidden to forward the suit they attempted to institute. An Iradé of the Sultan, however, ordered that an impartial Commission should be appointed to settle the matter, and such a Commission was, in fact, named. The claimants refused to agree to this means of solution, nor, so far as I am aware, did Mubarek ever express his formal consent, though he now relies on this Iradé as a bar to proceedings in the Law Courts.

Recently affairs have assumed an entirely different aspect. Mubarek is out of favour, while Yussuf-el-Ibrahim is in. Sabah and Saoud, the sons of Mohammed, instituted a suit before the Civil Court of Bussorah for the possession of Kutezzein (they are already masters of Gherdilan and Ajerawiyeh), and an officer of the Court was sent to Koweit to serve the summons on Mubarek. The latter declined to sign the receipt or to take any notice of the proceedings, but service was proved by the official who carried the summons; a "Wakeel Musakhar" was appointed by the Court to defend the absentee's interest, and the case was rushed through and an order made that the plaintiffs should be put in possession of the estate at Kutezzein.

Besides the above-named estates Mubarek has seized property at Sobieh belonging to Yussef-el-Ibrahim. Sobieh, however, on the Khor-es-Sobieh between Bubian Island and the mainland, is probably within Koweit territory.

Any friendly settlement of the points at issue is rendered doubly difficult by the fact that a blood feud exists between the parties, the murderers of Mohammed and Jerrah having undoubtedly been instigated by Mubarek.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 77.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 11, 1902.

KOWEIT. Your Lordship's telegram No. 40 and the proposals of the Resident at Busbire in your Lordship's telegram No. 39.

There is, in my opinion, no possible object in risking a conflict about Bubian Island with the Turks while leaving them in occupation of Umkasr, and such fishery rights are proverbially unsatisfactory for assertion of territorial jurisdiction. Fishermen from Koweit, according to Mr. Wratishlaw, stay there part of the year; he says nothing of their paying duties to the Sheikh, and adds that the island is generally uninhabited.

I do not know if the Sheikh has a more substantial claim to Sobieh, and have not heard yet that the Turks have occupied it or whether it is worth holding.

The Ottoman Government will, I am sure, refuse to evacuate Bubian for any reasons we can at present prefer, and to meet with a rebuff would be unpleasant, while to be obliged to drive them out would be equally so. We should, moreover, be drifting into an eventual occupation and protectorate, and we should probably be encouraging the Russians to seize a coaling station on the Gulf.

There would seem, however, to be no objection to letting the Minister for Foreign Affairs know that without further inquiry we cannot admit that the occupation of Bubian and Umkasr is not a disturbance of the *status quo* as regards Koweit, and that your Lordship has instructed me to inform him that His Majesty's Government do not consider the rights of the Sheikh as being prejudiced in any way by the action of the Turkish authorities at those places.

No. 78.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 41.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 12, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 30 of the 11th March on the subject of Koweit.

I concur in the views you take, and authorize you to make a representation to the Porte as suggested by you in the last paragraph of your telegram.

No. 79.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 13.)

Sir,

India Office, March 13, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter of the 26th ultimo, with regard to a complaint of the Turkish Government as to the alleged proceedings of a British gun-boat on the western coast of the Persian Gulf, and as to the conduct of Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India, dated the 4th March, reporting upon the matters complained of.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

March 4, 1902.

YOUR telegram of 25th February: Koweit.

Kemball telegraphs, 1st March:—

"Turkish complaint evidently refers to operations of 'Investigator,' who did, I hear, place three bamboo poles, without flags, as survey marks on coast north of Ajeir. Demonstration presumably has reference to the landing of officer to connect triangle with Bahrein; it was considered that there was no objection to these operations, as Turkish jurisdiction south of Katif is not admitted by us.

"I have warned 'Investigator,' as directed; she has been here for coal, and returned to Bahrein to-day, where she is engaged on work between Bahrein and Katr, on completion of which she has a little more to do on the other side of Bahrein, which will again necessitate landing of officer on mainland, though it will not be necessary to place marks. Is there any objection, or might it not be well to ignore Turkish protest?

"With regard to other complaint, Mubarak declares that he has had nothing to do with the enterprise of Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdur Rahman-bin-Feysul."

I have replied that "Investigator" may complete operations, provided that caution is observed, and landmarks are not placed on mainland.

No. 80.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 14.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 12, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the

Secretary of State, copy of a letter, dated the 20th ultimo, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, together with extracts from its inclosure, relating to the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

2. A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. J. VAN SITTART NEALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

Sir,

"Highflyer," at Bombay, February 20, 1902.

IN forwarding the inclosed letter from the Senior Officer in the Persian Gulf, and with reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the state of affairs at Koweit, I have the honour to offer the following remarks:—

Captain Pelham's letter shows the encroachments made by the Turks on the territory claimed by the Sheikh of Koweit, and explains the statement made in my telegram of the 26th ultimo, that the main difficulty which now exists is the precise limits of the Sheikh's territories.

Naval officers under my command who have recently had opportunities of informing themselves on the spot have, in conversation with me, expressed doubts as to whether we can rely on Sheikh Mubarak's fidelity to us. He is a minor Chief, surrounded by enemies, who has been brought into prominence by the fact that the geographical situation of his country has made it of political importance. He has ranged himself openly on our side, and he is convinced that his having done so is the cause of all his recent troubles, and that, moreover, he loses instead of gains by our alliance.

There can be no doubt that for some time past he has been put to considerable expense in keeping a large number of armed men ready to take the field, and he complains of the difficulty he experiences in learning the views of, and communicating with, the British Government. This means that he is anxious to have a Representative of Government at Koweit, and the presence of such an official would, no doubt, increase his prestige and feeling of security. I am informed that a grievance to which he frequently refers is that we "do much more for Bahrein" than for him. He seems to be impressed with the idea that if the British Government continue to refuse him a formal Protectorate, the only way out of his difficulties is to go over to Turkey, and, in this connection, it is perhaps worth while noting the fact that he possesses some valuable date gardens in Turkish territory at Fao.

That the difficulty of a clearly defined boundary of Mubarak's territory on all sides is appreciated by His Majesty's Government is indicated in the accompanying copy of a telegram to me from the Government of India, and, until it is removed, I fear it will be necessary for me to keep a large proportion of the squadron under my command in the northern part of the station, in order that a sufficient force may be available for the moral support of that Chief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DAY H. BOSANQUET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Captain Pelham to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Extract.)

"Fox," at Koweit, January 31, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that since the departure of His Majesty's ship "Pomone" on the 12th instant, everything has been quiet in Koweit and the adjacent country. The guns were all re-embarked and returned to their proper ships, and the dhows unharmed on the 20th and 23rd instant.

2. The general distribution of ships has been "Fox" and "Redbreast" at Koweit, "Perseus" and "Sphinx" at Jehara, and "Lapwing" at Muscat. The ships at Koweit and Jehara have been carrying out routine drills and surveying harbours as much as possible. The charts are utterly unreliable, and if Koweit is to become a much-frequented harbour a very careful resurvey will be necessary.

5. The Turks are still at Safwan and Em-Kasr (Em Gussur), but reported from Bussorah to have advanced to the Soubieh, near Koweit. Sheikh Mubarak has no intimation of this last move so far, but has had information that they are preparing to occupy Jezirah-Bubyan, an island just opposite Koweit and in sight of it. This is bringing them right down to the shores of Koweit Harbour.

6. News arrived the 29th instant here that Ameer Abdul-Assiz-bin-Rashid himself was seven days north-west from Koweit engaged at El-Udian fighting the Anase tribe. He appears to be trying to fight his way to Meshed-Ali (or Nedjef). Abdul Assiz-bin-Abdurhman-bin-Sood reports to Sheikh Mubarak that he attacked Abdul-Assiz-bin-Rashid's forces at El-Riad (in Nejd), and took the fort on (or about) the 15th January, killing the Sheikh in command and fifty of his followers, and capturing 200 rifles, besides other arms, camels, horses, standards, &c., thus restoring the country to its former Rulers.

The Bedouin Arabs are all reported to be joining forces against Abdul-Assiz-bin-Rashid, and if this is all true, and I have no reason to doubt it, Bin Rashid should give no trouble here for some time to come unless backed by a Turkish force.

7. His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" left yesterday for Bahrein and El-Katif, "Lapwing" is at Muscat, and "Perseus" leaves to-day, in accordance with your telegram of the 25th January, for Bombay. "Redbreast" remains here keeping up communications. Submit that two ships at this end of the Gulf are quite sufficient in the present state of affairs, but it will be necessary to check the Turkish advance to strictly within limits of their own territory, unless confidence is again to be shaken.

Inclosure 3 in No. 80.

Government of India to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Telegraphic.)

Calcutta, February 13, 1902.

MY telegram of the 4th, Koweit, in connection with Turkish occupation of Um-Kasr, Kemball proposes to send a gun-boat up Khor Abdullah and Sub-biy-eh to ascertain correct position of the places occupied and where Turks really are. Secretary of State, who was consulted, telegraphed 11th as follows:—

Begins: Kemball's proposal to send a gun-boat up Khor Abdullah and Sub-biy-eh approved, but only for the purpose of observation and reporting. It is not considered expedient without further information to demand withdrawal of Turkish troops, but O'Connor will inform Porte that forward movements of this kind are contrary to our understanding and oblige us to send a gun-boat. *Ends.*

Resident informed.

No. 81.

Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 14.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne et a l'honneur d'informer sa Seigneurie que d'après un télégramme que la Sublime Porte vient de recevoir du Vali de Bassorah, il appert que les officiers de la Marine Anglaise ont planté trois mâts à Djeziré, localité située près de l'échelle d'Adjire, et se sont livrés à des manifestations dans ses parages à bord d'un steam-boat.

Les gens de Mubarak-Ussebah ont de leur côté intercepté les voies de communication entre Bassorah et Nedjed et cerné le détachement Ottoman se trouvant à Kasr au moment même où un bâtiment de guerre Anglais était venu mouiller en rade de cette ville. Ils auraient en outre l'intention d'envahir Katif.

Le Consul d'Angleterre à Bahrein ayant avisé le public que Katif et l'échelle d'Adjir avaient été occupés par des tribus Arabes et qu'Ihsan se trouvait cerné, quelques navires de commerce en partance pour Adjir ont dû débarquer de nouveau leurs chargements à Bahrein.

Anthopoulos Pacha est chargé d'ajouter que son Excellence Tewfik Pacha considérant ces faits comme contraires au *status quo*, a fait des démarches à ce sujet auprès de l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople et appelle en même temps l'attention de sa Seigneurie sur cette situation.

Il la prie de vouloir bien donner à qui de droit des instructions efficaces par voie télégraphique afin qu'il soit mis sans retard un terme à cet état de choses.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 14 Mars, 1902.*

No. 82.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 14.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 14, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated this day, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Rear-Admiral Douglas to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bombay, March 14, 1902.

SENIOR Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, reports, on authority of Resident, that Turks intend to occupy Hagaieja 4 miles north of Sabiya, 7 from mouth of Khor on Koweit side, Sheikh's territory. Sheikh is sending forty men there immediately to forestall Turks on Resident's advice, with orders to remain there unless force quits, but on no account to engage in act of hostility. This further considerable encroachment is very serious. "Sphinx" is at Bushire; could proceed to spot if desired.

Indian Government informed.

No. 83.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of telegrams to the Viceroy, dated the 12th and 14th March last, relating to the Sheikh of Koweit's claim to Umkasr and Bubiyan Island.

India Office, March 15, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

March 12, 1902.

KOWEIT. O'Connor reports arrival at Bussorah of six infantry battalions, and Consul's belief that further military posts, including one at Sabieh, are to be estab-

lished towards Koweit. O'Connor understands that Koweit Sheikh claims that in favourable seasons his people cultivated land at Umkasr, and that Turks did not exercise authority there till recent events; but he considers that these arguments are weak, that it will be difficult to maintain with our present information that action of Ottoman authorities in either Bubiyan or Umkasr is disturbance of *status quo* at Koweit, consequently that we must be content with maintenance of Sheikh's authority over Koweit, including bay and Kasima. Foreign Office concur. Your telegram of 7th March regarding Bubiyan has been communicated to Foreign Office, but it is unlikely that it will alter their views.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

March 14, 1902.

MY telegram, 12th March: Koweit. Foreign Office, while concurring in O'Connor's views, agree to his suggestion that Porte should be informed that we cannot admit without further inquiry that occupation of Umkasr and Bubiyan is not disturbance of *status quo*, and that we do not regard Sheikh's rights as in any way prejudiced by action of Turkish authorities.

No. 84.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 15, 1902.

PLEASE see the telegram from the Commander-in-chief East Indies of yesterday repeated to you.

It is doubtful whether evidence could be produced of Sheikh's claim to either Hagaieja or Sobieh in view of your telegram No. 30 of the 11th March.

We think, however, that you may in any case remonstrate with reason against movements in the vicinity of Koweit, on the ground that they tend to keep the country in a state of constant disturbance and alarm, and that they are an impediment to our efforts to keep the Sheikh quiet, in accordance with the agreement made between His Majesty's Government and the Government of Turkey.

No. 85.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 15, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a telegram which has been addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the alleged intention of the Turkish Government to occupy Hagaieja,* as reported in the telegram from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station of the 14th instant, which has been communicated by the Admiralty to your Department.

The Commander-in-chief states in this telegram that the Sheikh of Koweit, acting on the advice of the Resident in the Persian Gulf, is sending forty men immediately to Hagaieja in order to forestall the intended Turkish action, which is described as a considerable encroachment of a serious nature.

It appears to Lord Lansdowne that the action of the Resident in thus advising the Sheikh is of questionable expediency, and that the reported "intention" of the Turks to advance to Hagaieja can scarcely be described as an encroachment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* No. 84.

No. 86.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 16, 1902.

KOWEIT. Owing to the interruption of line, I have only received to-day Mr. Wratislaw's reply of the 7th instant to my request for his opinion on the Sheikh's rights to Umkasr and Bubiyan, which is as follows:—

"Your telegram of the 5th. Survey of channel shows Umkasr to be most important, and even better adapted than Koweit for a railway terminus. But I fear that, while it is highly desirable to secure it, the Sheikh has only a very shadowy claim to it. It has been uninhabited for many years since he exercised any authority there, even if it be true, as he asserts, that, in the time of his grandfather, it was occupied by Koweit people. On the other hand, the Turks seem to have little claim beyond present occupation, and Sheikh says Koweit makes use of the place as port for Bussorah.

"His claim to Bubiyan is on a different footing, and is, in my opinion, good. For some months every year regularly it is used as a fishing ground by Arabs acknowledging his authority, and by no others. Men have been sent by Sheikh to occupy Sobieh, and he has informed Senior Naval Officer that it was not his men, but Bedouins and Turkish subjects who threatened the Turkish troops at Umkasr. His statement seems to be unreliable in general, and hardly supports his claim, though Arabs themselves said that they recognized him."

No. 87.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 34.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 16, 1902.

KOWEIT. With reference to message from Commander-in-chief East India Station of the 14th instant in your Lordship's telegram No. 44, following telegram of the 10th instant, received on the 16th, from British Consul, Bussorah:—

"It has been decided, I hear, to occupy Hejeje, a place on the channel between Sobieh and Umkasr, and it had better be occupied at once by the Sheikh."

No. 88.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 35.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 16, 1902.

KOWEIT. In speaking to-day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as authorized by your Lordship in the sense of the last paragraph of my telegram No. 30 of the 11th instant, I also told him that I was instructed to make a remonstrance against military movements in the vicinity of Koweit, as tending to impede our efforts to keep the Sheikh quiet, in accordance with his Excellency's repeated request and our agreement with the Porte, and to keep the country in a state of alarm and disturbance. Tewfik Pasha replied that he knew that troops had been sent to Umkasr, though he was not aware of the occupation of Bubiyan Island, but he assured me of the desire of the Ottoman Government to respect the *status quo* and the arrangement with His Majesty's Government.

The real motive of these proceedings was, as he desired to inform me confidentially, anxiety that, as difficulties were raised about extending the Bagdad Railway to Koweit, a *debouché* might be kept under their own protection. He believed that nothing more would be heard of such incidents if the English Syndicate decided to participate in this great railway undertaking.

No. 89.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, March 17.)

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Bussorah, February 15, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that no steps have yet been taken to serve on Mubarek the *ex parte* judgment rendered by the Civil Court in the matter of the estate at Kutezzein. On the contrary, as reported in my telegram No. 17 of the 13th instant, the Vali this week summoned the sons of Mahommed before him and asked them to agree to the arbitration of a Commission in accordance with the Sultan's Iradé of 1898. The young men declined, and on the Vali's asking the reason replied that they wanted revenge for the murder of their father.

I understand that the Cadi has been ordered to stop proceedings for the time being in the Civil Court over which he presides.

I learn from His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Bushire that according to Mubarek the heirs of two of his uncles (whom he claims to represent) have rights to shares in the Sofieh and Faõ properties, and that certain ladies further have dower rights which he also represents. If this is correct, the distribution of the property will be an extremely complicated process.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 90.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 17th instant, relating to the position of affairs in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

India, Office, March 18, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

March 17, 1902.

YOUR telegram of 14th March: Koweit.

Kemball telegraphed 14th:—

"Wratislaw telegraphs that occupation of Hejeje by the Turks has been decided upon. This is place on Koweit side of Khoresubiya, 4 miles north-east of Subiya, and belongs to Mubarak, whom I have advised, at Wratislaw's suggestion, to occupy it at once. I hear that he has sent forty men there. It is very important that Turkish advance should be stopped."

I propose to send "Sphinx" to spot to watch events. Do you approve? With reference to my telegram of 7th instant, "Sphinx," when visiting Khoresubiya, found Subiya occupied by Mubarak's men; therefore, whatever view is held about Umkasr, advance of Turks to Hejeje and Subiya can hardly be regarded other than as disturbance of *status quo*.

No. 91.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton,

No. 90*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 117.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1902.

DURING the course of a prolonged conversation with the French Ambassador to-day, he referred to the attitude of the British, or, as he put it, the Indian Government towards other Powers in the Persian Gulf. He regarded the pretensions of the Indian Government as excessive, and attributed to them a desire to treat the Gulf as a British lake. He thought it would be impossible for us to persist in a policy of this kind. The Anatolian Railway would have its terminus at some point upon the Gulf, which would then become a highway for international commerce, and we must look this prospect in the face.

I replied that his Excellency was mistaken in attributing to us or to the Government of India a desire to exclude the trade of other countries from Persian waters. Our attitude towards the Anatolian Railway project had been far from unfriendly. I had, indeed, within the last few days, explained to the German Ambassador that we were quite prepared to facilitate the construction of the line, but that our support was not to be expected unless we were given a share at least equal to that of any other Power in the capitalization of the Company, in its management, and in the orders for materials and equipment.

M. Cambon observed that he could say confidently that there was no desire to deny sufficient opportunities to British capitalists, but that when the project had been mooted in financial circles, the overtures which had been made had met with a very cold response in the City.

I replied that that might be so, but that the question was still under discussion.

I went on to say that whilst these were our feelings with regard to the commercial exits in the Persian Gulf, we entertained the strongest objection to, and should certainly oppose, any attempt on the part of other Powers to create strategical bases or fortified harbours in those waters. The necessity for taking every precaution against such an event had been strikingly illustrated by the example of Batoum, with which his Excellency was, of course, perfectly familiar.

His Excellency having referred to our "méfiance" of Russia in those regions, I said that it had been my earnest wish to arrive at an amicable understanding with Russia in regard to Persian as well as Chinese affairs, and that I had made a "tentative" in that direction, but unfortunately without success.

The above conversation, on both sides, was quite informal, but it is as well that I should report the substance of it to your Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 20th February, relating to the ownership of Umkasr and Sefwan, and affairs at Koweit.

India Office, March 19, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Bushire, January 26, 1902.

IN continuation of my telegram dated the 21st January, 1902, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from Sheikh Mubarek, dated the 22nd idem, brought over by His Majesty's ship "Sphinx." The Senior Naval Officer in a telegram to the Naval Commander-in-chief states that Umkasr is about 40 miles north-north-east of Koweit on the Khor Abdulla, which separates the Island of Babiyoum from the mainland on the right bank of the Shat-el-Arab.

It will be noticed that the Sheikh claims the place as within his territory, and I have telegraphed to Mr. Wratislaw to ask if he can find out if the Sheikh's assertion is correct or not. I have also the honour to state that Mr. Wratislaw telegraphed on the 23rd that it was reported that the Turks had moved from Umkasr to Soubieh, which, from information available here, appears to be a village on the Khor Subbiyya, which runs into the sea near the north-east corner of the Bay of Koweit.

This movement has not been confirmed yet, but Sheikh Mubarek will, no doubt, inform the Senior Naval Officer if it is true before the gun-boat comes over for the mails next week.

I have, &c.
(For Officiating Political Resident, Persian Gulf),
(Signed) W. S. DAVIS,
First Assistant.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, February 2, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 18th January, regarding Sheikh Mubarek's properties within Turkish territory, I have the honour to forward copy of a telegram, dated the 29th January, from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, informing me that judgment has been given against the Sheikh with regard to one of the estates. I am communicating with Sheikh Mubarek on the subject.

I have also the honour to forward copies of two telegrams, Nos. 10 and 11,* from Mr. Wratislaw to the Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of these properties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL,
Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 3 in No. 91.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, February 3, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 26th January, I have the honour to send the inclosed letter from Sheikh Mubarek to my address, which was omitted by an oversight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

* Already received from Sir N. O'Connor.

Inclosure 4 in No. 91.

Sheikh Mubarek-el-Sabah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(After compliments.)

10th Shavval, 1319 (January 22, 1902).

THE Turks have established two camps for their soldiers, one at Sefwan and the other at Um-el-Kasr, which is east of Sefwan, and 8 hours' distant from it. It (Um-el-Kasr) is situated on the sea which is known as El Khveir, and has two approaches, one from Khor Sebbiyeh and the other from Khor Variyeh. The sea is deep there, and the least water is 4 fathoms deep. The place for the troops at Um-el-Kasr is only 50 yards from the shore, and it is now some days that it was got ready. It is within the boundary of my territory, and I am afraid they will come nearer (to Koweit). All this is done at the instance of Ibn Rashid, and the scoundrel Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, through the Mushir, who receives money from them, does all this and keeps on urging the people (the authorities) at Constantinople. At present there are two battalions of infantry and 150 cavalry at Khamisiyeh and a similar number at Samavah. They are commanded by Mahomed Pasha Daghestani.

Ibn Rashid has retired to the extent of five days' journey. He had been put to a great deal of loss by coming down, and his tribesmen are dissatisfied. He is of no consideration to me, but all this trouble is caused by the Turks.

No. 92.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a telegram from the Secretary of State to the Viceroy, dated the 17th March, relating to the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

India Office, March 19, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Lord George Hamilton to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, March 17, 1902.

KOWEIT. Admiralty communicate report that Kemball has advised Sheikh to occupy Hagaieja in order to forestall Turks. Foreign Office consider advice of questionable expediency, and doubt whether Turkish advance to Hagaieja can be called encroachment. O'Connor has been instructed to remonstrate against advance, as tending to disturb country and impede our efforts to keep Sheikh quiet, in accordance with agreement with Porte.

No. 93.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 20.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 20, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram dated the 20th instant, from the Commander-in-chief, East Indies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Rear-Admiral Douglas to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bombay, March 20, 1902.

SHEIKH of Koweit's Agent at Bussorah reports Turks intend occupying Sabiya, and from thence eventually Kathama. Indian Government informed.

No. 94.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Anthopoulo Pasha.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, March 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th instant, calling attention to reports which have been received by the Sublime Porte in regard to affairs in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

These reports are to the effect:—

That officers of His Majesty's navy have placed three flag-staffs at Djeziré close to the landing-stage at Adjiri (Ojair) and made demonstrations on board a steam-boat in that neighbourhood.

That the forces of the Sheikh Mubarek have intercepted the communications between Bussorah and Nejd with the intention of invading Katif, and have cut off the Turkish detachment at Kasr, while a British man-of-war was anchored off that place.

That His Majesty's Consul at Bahrein has given a public warning of the presence of Arab tribes at Adjiri (Ojair) in consequence of which trading vessels have been obliged to disembark their cargoes at Bahrein.

Before I received your Excellency's note His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had already informed me that a similar representation had, towards the end of last month, been made to him by the Grand Vizier, who had requested that orders might be sent by His Majesty's Government to prevent such occurrences and to restrain the action of the Sheikh of Koweit.

I took immediate steps at the time to have enquiries made into the circumstances complained of, and from the reports which have been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for India I am now enabled to give your Excellency the following information.

With regard to the proceedings in the neighbourhood of Adjiri (Ojair), it appears that in the course of operations conducted by a surveying vessel of the Government of India three bamboo poles without flags were temporarily placed as marks on the coast north of Adjiri (Ojair) for the purpose of a survey by triangular observations connected with Bahrein, and that the demonstration referred to by your Excellency is to be explained by the landing of an officer from the ship to make the observations necessary to complete the triangular connection between the coast and that island. It will be observed that these operations were entirely confined to scientific investigations of general interest and to a particular portion of the coast south of Katif.

The reported action of the forces of the Sheikh of Koweit for the purpose of intercepting the communications between Bussorah and Nejd would appear to be founded on the circumstance that certain raids have been made by Arab tribes on the territory of the Amir of Nejd. His Majesty's Government had already warned the Sheikh Mubarek against encouraging any such proceedings, and they have now been assured by him that he has had nothing to do with these enterprises. The recent visit of one of His Majesty's ships to the neighbourhood of Umkasr was, I need hardly assure your Excellency, entirely unconnected with these raids.

On the other hand, His Majesty's Government receive constant reports of the advance of parties of Turkish troops to places in the vicinity of Koweit, some of which indeed are actually inhabited by subjects of the Sheikh. These movements cannot fail to keep the country and the Sheikh himself in a state of unrest and alarm, and His Majesty's Government feel that they have reason to complain of them both as being departures from the *status quo* which the Turkish Government has undertaken to respect, and as interfering with their loyal endeavours to induce the Sheikh to abstain from himself disturbing it.

[1518]

P

I have received no information with regard to the reported action of His Majesty's Consul at Bahrein, but if, as your Excellency's note would seem to imply, he merely issued a public warning that the country near Ojair was in a disturbed condition, he would appear to have only taken a necessary step for the assistance and protection of trading interests on the coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 95.

Memorandum by the Marquess of Lansdowne.

THE situation at Koweit is becoming more and more embarrassing, and the time has come for looking it in the face.

We have saddled ourselves with an impossible client in the person of the Sheikh. He is apparently an untrustworthy savage, no one knows where his possessions begin and end, and our obligations towards him are as ill-defined as the boundaries of his Principality. We have distinctly announced that he does not enjoy British "protection;" on the other hand, we once made him a present of 1,000l., and promised him our "good offices," whatever that may mean. When we made this promise we were, I feel no doubt, thinking of Koweit proper, if there is such a thing, and not of Boobyah or other outskirts over which the Sheikh has rights of one sort or another. We have up to the present sheltered ourselves not unsuccessfully, during our discussion with the Turks on the one side and foreign Governments on the other, behind the plausible announcement that we desired to maintain the *status quo* in regard to Koweit. But I doubt whether any one really knows what the *status quo* is. We have, at any rate in my opinion, no right to tell the Turks that they may not move troops for the purpose of putting down a rebellion in the Nejd region, or that they must not look out for a suitable terminus of the Baghdad Railway for fear of disturbing the *status quo*.

If matters are left as they are, we shall involve ourselves in a very unsatisfactory dispute. And we shall, as Admiral Bosanquet has lately pointed out, be obliged to keep the squadron on sentry go at the head of the gulf in order to maintain the peace.

We might, it seems to me, to explain (1) to the Porte (2) to the Sheikh and (3) to the foreign Powers immediately interested the objects of our policy.

I should be inclined to say that our engagements to Koweit do not extend beyond the district adjoining or close to the bay of that name, and to endeavour to obtain the adhesion of the Porte and of the Sheikh to an approximate definition of that district. It may be necessary to reconcile the Sheikh by the payment of another 1,000l., or of an even larger sum.

I would make it clear to the Turks that we do not want to stand in the way of an arrangement under which the terminus of the line might be placed at some spot other than Koweit to their advantage if they can make anything out of it.

As to the foreign Powers, I have already explained to most of them that we are not going to oppose the Railway project, provided British capital receives a share at least equal to that of any other Power in respect of construction, management, and orders for materials, and I have added that while we do not grudge a débouché for international commerce in the Gulf, and have no wish to make it into a British lake, we shall resist to the utmost all attempts by other Powers to obtain a foothold on its shores for naval or military purposes.

This, I take it, is the "bed rock" of our policy in the Gulf, and we shall pursue that policy, not in virtue of ambiguous understandings with local Chiefs, but as the predominant Power in Southern Persia and in the Gulf: the Power whose commercial interests in those regions far exceed those of other Powers, the Power to whose efforts in the past it is due that the waters of the Gulf are open to the trade of the world, and whose duty it will be in the future to protect the new trade route. If it is understood that we have to be reckoned with, whoever builds the railway, and wherever it finds a terminus, because we are that Power, we can regard with indifference the local intrigues of any number of Sheikhs and Emirs.

Vide draft telegram herewith for your concurrence.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Foreign Office, March 21, 1902.

No. 96.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 54.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 24, 1902.

REFERRING to your telegram No. 35 of the 16th instant, we should, I think, endeavour to arrive at a frank understanding with the Turkish Government on the question of Koweit. We have no wish to encourage the Sheikh to break away from his relations of allegiance to the Sultan, and we have acknowledged that Koweit is a part of the Ottoman dominions; but we are bound to give Mubarak our support against attacks or attempts to encroach on his territories or to diminish his privileges. We are unwilling on that account to be drawn into a series of irritating discussions in regard to the movements of Turkish forces to places in the vicinity of Koweit to which the Sheikh may possess some kind of claim, but his title to which it would be found difficult to prove satisfactorily.

We do not desire to place obstacles in the way of the Bagdad Railway being prolonged to the Persian Gulf, or to prevent Koweit, or any other spot which may be considered more convenient, being selected as its terminus. Our assistance must, however, be conditional on British capital receiving a share at least equal to that of any other Power as regards orders for materials and the construction and management of the line. We have a right to claim this, both in view of the fact that it will be necessary to obtain our co-operation for the financial arrangements on which the undertaking depends, and because Great Britain is the Power which has the predominant interest in the European commerce of the Persian Gulf, to whose exertions it is due that the commerce of the world has access to those waters, and on whom in the future the duty will fall of protecting commerce as it passes through the Gulf by the new trade route.

I request that you will speak in this sense to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Grand Vizier, pointing out to them that our co-operation will be necessary for arrangements with the Sheikh and his tribesmen in order to secure their goodwill, and also for restraining piracy or plundering by others in the Gulf, whether the terminus of the railway be fixed in the actual territory of Koweit or not.

No. 97.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 25.)

Sir,

India Office, March 24, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, on the subject of the recent advances by Turkish troops in the neighbourhood of Koweit, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to request that you will lay before Lord Lansdowne the inclosed copies of telegrams which have lately passed between this Office and the Government of India on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, March 12, 1902.

KOWEIT: O'Connor reports arrival at Bussorah of six infantry battalions, and Consul's belief that further military posts, including one at Sobieh, are to be established towards Koweit. O'Connor understands that Koweit Sheikh claims that in favourable seasons his people cultivated land at Umkasr, and that Turks did not exercise authority there till recent events, but he considers that these arguments are weak, that it will be difficult to maintain with our present information that action of Ottoman authorities in either Bubian or Umkasr is disturbance of *status quo* at Koweit; consequently, that we must be content with maintenance of Sheikh's authority over Koweit, including bay and Kasima. Foreign Office concur. Your telegram of 7th March regarding Bubian has been communicated to Foreign Office, but it is unlikely that it will alter their views.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, March 14, 1902.

MY telegram 12th March. Koweit. Foreign Office, while concurring in O'Connor's views, agree to his suggestion that Porte should be informed that we cannot admit without further inquiry that occupation of Umkasr and Bubian is not disturbance of *status quo*, and that we do not regard Sheikh's rights as in any way prejudiced by action of Turkish authorities.

Inclosure 3 in No. 97.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, March 17, 1902.

KOWEIT: Admiralty communicate report that Kemball has advised Sheikh to occupy Hagaieja in order to forestall Turks. Foreign Office consider advice of questionable expediency, and doubt whether Turkish advance to Hagaieja can be called encroachment. O'Connor has been instructed to remonstrate against advance, as tending to disturb country and impede our efforts to keep Sheikh quiet, in accordance with agreement with Porte.

No. 98.

Telegrams communicated by India Office, March 26, 1902.

(1.)

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

March 18, 1902.

MY telegram of 17th. Koweit.

Following two telegrams of 15th March from Kemball:—

1st. "Wratislaw telegraphs judgment was served on Sheikh's lawyer in Bussorah, 12th March. This presumably refers to Kutizien property."

2nd. "Wratislaw telegraphs that all the Turkish sappers in Bussorah, about eighty in number, are ordered to leave for Fao, and thence most of them to Bubian. Your telegram of 14th March has been received. Sheikh will, I fear, be much concerned at the decision to allow Bubian to remain in possession of Turks. He considers his right to this place undoubted, and its occupation by Turks will make his position as Sheikh, Koweit, more difficult. His loyalty to us has, I believe, not been entirely popular in Koweit, and there is Turkish party in place whose influence will increase as Sheikh's position becomes more difficult. He is, I believe, both ready and anxious to remain loyal to us, but as matters are now going he may be forced to make terms with Turks, who are apparently working with this end in view. Turkish advances have, it seems to me, altered *status quo*, in that position of the Sheikh is thereby affected, and his authority at Koweit weakened. Further, it will be essential, so far as I can see, for our ship of war to remain indefinitely, if our hold over Sheikh is to be maintained. It is advisable that I should receive instructions whether Koweit shore of Khor Subyeh may be considered within Sheikh's limit. Sheikh has been advised not to actively oppose Turks if they advance to Hagaieja, which is practically same place as Subyeh, but to leave settlement of the question of his frontier with us. Subyeh is seven miles distant from mouth of the Khor, and we may, in view of recent decision, not consider ourselves able to maintain Sheikh's authority over it. Entrance to Khor Subyeh is not navigable for ships."

These telegrams crossed your telegram of 14th. Your telegram of 17th received. View of Foreign Office appears to us unsound, and unless Sheikh is to be squeezed out altogether, it seems essential to retain for him Koweit shore of Khor Subyeh. It is serious enough that he should lose Bubian Island, but if Hagaieja and Subyeh are to go too Kathama Bay will follow suit, and Turks will be in immediate vicinity of

Koweit. In these circumstances Sheikh will have no alternative except to make terms with Turks, and our entire policy will be nullified. Advance of the Turks is unquestionable violation of *status quo*, since they have never before been in place now occupied. Should we not, therefore, inform both Turks and Sheikh that Koweit shores of Khor Subyeh are considered to be within Sheikh's limit, and that encroachment will not be permitted?

(2.)

*Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.**March 21, 1902.*

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram of the 18th. Koweit.

Kemball telegraphs 19th:—

"Mubarak writes complaining of raid[s] by cousin[s] of Emir of Nejd, in which 120 camels were carried away near Jehra. Mubarak has frequently complained of raids upon his territory, and he states that, in accordance with our advice, he has not retaliated. I think that Turks should be told to restrain Emir of Nejd, otherwise Mubarak will be allowed to retaliate. I hear from Fao that about fifty Turkish soldiers passed down river towards fort, presumably sappers referred to in my telegram of the 15th March."

(3.)

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, March 24, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Government are considering the whole question of Koweit, and are addressing the Porte on the subject. Pending decision instruct Kemball to do nothing by advice or otherwise to encourage Sheikh to occupy positions beyond those he now holds.

No. 99.

India Office to Foreign Office—(Received March 26.)

Sir,

India Office, March 24, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to request, with reference to Mr. Bertie's letter of the 30th August, 1899, that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople may be instructed to direct His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to repeat to the Viceroy the information regarding developments at Koweit, which he finds it necessary to telegraph to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 100.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 40.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 26, 1902.

KOWEIT. With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 52 containing statement of Commander-in-chief, following received to-day from Mr. Wratislaw:—

"Sheikh's Agent told me to-day that all he had said was that he thought Turks wished to occupy coast-line as far as possible towards Koweit, but that he gave no information of an intention to occupy Kasima. He did write of an intention to occupy Sobieh, but, now that Sheikh has forestalled them, he thinks there is no further danger."

No. 101.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 43.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 27, 1902.

KOWEIT. My telegram No. 40 of the 25th.

I have called the very serious attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and of the Grand Vizier to a report telegraphed by Mr. Wratislaw on the 25th, that the Turks intend to occupy Sobieh shortly, in spite of presence of Sheikh's men, and have urged that orders to prevent any movement of this kind be immediately sent.

I learnt also from the Grand Vizier that the observations strongly deprecating any further encroachment on the Sheikh's territory, which I made to him on the 25th, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions contained in telegram No. 54, were at once reported by him to the Palace, but the Sultan's reply was not satisfactory. Another and more urgent report will be presented to His Imperial Majesty to-night by his Highness.

I do not think any further encroachment can be allowed without encouraging the Turks to proceed to still greater lengths, and without losing control over the Sheikh. The presence of a gun-boat in the neighbourhood will hardly fail of its effect.

No. 102.

Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 28.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de sa Seigneurie que, d'après un télégramme qu'il vient de recevoir du Ministère Impérial, il appert que des bâtiments de guerre Britanniques continuent à faire des évolutions dans les eaux Ottomanes du côté de Nédjd, et que les équipages de ces navires descendent même à terre et y commettent des actes de nature à jeter le trouble dans les esprits de la population.

De pareils procédés étant contraires aux droits souverains du Gouvernement Impérial, Anthopoulos Pacha prie le Marquis de Lansdowne de vouloir bien transmettre à qui de droit des ordres propres à en empêcher le renouvellement.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie.**Londres, le 27 Mars, 1902.*

No. 103.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated 26th March, concerning the affairs of Koweit.

India Office, March 27, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 26, 1902.

WRATISLAW telegraphs on 25th March that, according to information he has received, Turks will very soon occupy Subiyyeh in spite of the presence of the Sheikh's men.

Kemball also telegraphs on 25th March that Gaskin reports information received from Mahomed Abdul Wahab, who has lately returned from El Hasa to Bahrein, that

the Vali of Bussorah has written to the Governor of El Hasa informing him that the Turkish Government has abandoned the idea of Kasima as the terminus of the German Railway, and has chosen Umkasr instead.

No. 104.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 36.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 29, 1902.

KOWEIT. British Consul, Bussorah, telegraphs on the 18th March:—

"A Commissioner from the Emir has arrived in Bussorah, asking for help to subdue rising in Nejd proper, with which he seems unable to cope. No answer has been given him as yet."

No. 105.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 31.)

(No. 8. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, February 25, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 18, 19, and 20, of the 19th, 23rd, and 24th instant respectively, I have the honour to report that the account originally brought by Turkish soldiers from Sefwan of a collision between the troops at Umkasr and armed Arabs proved to be incorrect. The following is what the Vali who sent the Tabour Aghassi to the spot to enquire states to have occurred:—

About ten days ago a British gun-boat was observed to be in the Khor, the channel between Bubian Island and the mainland, of which the northern portion is known as Khor Abdullah, and the southern as Khor-es-Sobieh. Later a party was seen to land and take observations, and the officer in command of the troops at Umkasr thereupon advanced to meet them. He inquired what was the reason of their visit, and the naval officer replied that he wished, if it were permitted, to call on him. He answered, "Why, certainly," and was conducting them to his quarters when a considerable body of Arabs who had collected, and who apparently thought that the Englishmen were being carried off in custody, raised the war-cry, which is their usual preliminary to an attack. The Turkish soldiers stood to their arms and trouble at first appeared imminent, but finally all ended peacefully. The British officer paid a second friendly call on the Turkish Commandant the next day.

When the Tabour Aghassi arrived at Umkasr the British ship was just starting, and he endeavoured in vain to attract her attention.

The Vali said that it would have been much more satisfactory if the Commander of His Majesty's ship had let him know through the Consulate that he wished to survey the locality in question, when his Excellency would have arranged for a fitting reception and there would have been no risk of unpleasantness. Of course that old rascal Mubarek was at the bottom of it. His Excellency added that his limited vocabulary was quite inadequate to describe the crafty and intriguing character of the Sheikh of Koweit, whose one object was to embroil Turkey with Great Britain. 500 men and a couple of guns were enough to obliterate him, but really he was not worth it.

Besides, the two Governments could settle all pending questions between themselves.

The Vali, who himself broached the subject to my Dragoman, who was calling on him about other business, further requested him to tell me that he had been much pained by an incident which had occurred at Koweit at the time of the visit of the Nakib, who was accompanied by Nedjib Bey, his own brother. The Captain of a British man-of-war had, he asserted, caused the Turkish flag to be lowered and replaced by the British flag so long as the Nakib's stay lasted.

He, the Vali, naturally reported the matter to Constantinople, but on official remonstrances being made the explanation was given that the exchange of flags was

No. 109.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 27th February, relative to the affairs of Koweit.

India Office, March 29, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, February 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, translated purport of two letters received by me from Sheikh Mubarek, of Koweit, in one of which he reports that Abdul Aziz Ibn Saood, the son, I believe, of Abdul Rahman bin Feysal Ibn Saood, has taken possession of Riyadh; while in the other letter he reports the latest news of Ibn Rashid's whereabouts, and his intention to attack. If the news of the capture of Riyadh is true, as I believe it is, it would seem that the Emir of Nejd will have other things to think of than an attack on Koweit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Translated purport of a Letter dated the 20th Shawal, 1319 (January 31, 1902), from Sheikh Mubarek El Sabah, Chief of Koweit, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(After compliments.)

ON the 19th Shawal (30th January, 1902), authentic information reached me regarding Abdul Aziz Ibn Saood and all the Saood people, who are near a place called Kharaj, which is near Hasa. Riyadh belonged to them. They have captured Riyadh and killed Ibn Rashid's man, who was acting as his Governor at Riyadh and Aridh. They have also killed many of Ibn Rashid's dependents, and taken charge of the fort at Riyadh. The tribes of the south are gathering round him (Abdul Aziz bin Saood), viz., Dowasir, El Murra, Ejman, and the inhabitants of Nejd, and they have started rebuilding the wall round Riyadh, which Ibn Rashid had demolished. News has also come from Anja that the people there are making preparations to fight Ibn Rashid, that the latter is at present near the boundary of the Dhafir country, five days distant from here. On account of your good graces I am resting quiet with my people and my tribes.

Inclosure 3 in No. 109.

Translated purport of a Letter dated the 22nd Shawal, 1319 (February 2, 1902), from Sheikh Mubarek El Sabah, Chief of Koweit, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received news from a person who has just come from where Ibn Rashid is. He said Ibn Rashid is at the last boundary of the Dhafir country, near a place called Amnah, which is five days distant from here. He also stated that the whole of Ibn Rashid's following belongs to the Shummar tribe, that he intends attacking my tribes, who are near my territory; that he has given out, "Mubarek has gone over to the English, and the latter have stopped him from attacking me or my tribes, where-

as the Turks do not prevent me, and want me to destroy Mubarek's tribes, so that none may remain with him. If the English made inquiries from the Turks, and the Turks wrote to me, I would make excuses, and say I have done nothing."

This is the arrangement which exists between Ibn Rashid and the Turks. The news is correct, because Sahood, one of the Sheikhs of the Muteir tribe, had heard it from Ibn Rashid eight days ago, and he has repeated it to me and the Captain (Senior Naval Officer). I have now told my tribes to mobilize near Jahra.

Inclosure 4 in No. 109.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, February 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Assistant Political Agent at Bahrein informs me that a letter addressed to the Chief of Bahrein by the Emir of Nejd was brought to Bahrein by Saad-ul-Hazemi, alluded to in Mr. Gaskin's letter, which formed the inclosure to my letter No. 12, dated the 18th January last, to your address. The letter, which was shown by the Chief to the Assistant Political Agent, contained the usual compliments and inquiries after the Chief's health. It seemed to me that the receipt of this letter might give the Chief an opportunity of communicating with the Emir of Nejd, and I have accordingly instructed Mr. Gaskin to suggest to the Chief that he might, in his reply to the Emir's letter, advise him to desist from hostilities and make terms with Sheikh Mubarek, who is quite ready to listen to any reasonable proposals.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

No. 110.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 47.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 1, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs to-day as follows:—

"March 31.—Sheikh has, I hear, offered a heavy bribe of 10,000*l.* to the Vali to stop further encroachments and put him right with the Sultan. Moubarek declares he only called in the English to protect him against the Amir because the Sultan refused to assist him, and that he is His Majesty's faithful servant.

"Most of the sappers, I believe, stayed at Fao. Only twenty went to Bubian."

No. 111.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 1, 1902.

KOWEIT. In conversation with me to-day the Minister for Foreign Affairs observed, with reference to the overtures made by the Sheikh, that he seemed willing to make promises as readily to one side as to another. Tewfik Pasha assured me that his Government had no intention of occupying Kasima or Sobieh. I warned him that further encroachments would not be tolerated by His Majesty's Government.

No. 112.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 61.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 1, 1902.

KOWEIT. I approve the language held by your Excellency as reported in your telegram No. 43 of the 27th ultimo.

Gun-boats cannot navigate the channel to Subieh, but there are two, if not three, of His Majesty's ships in the neighbourhood of Khor Abdullah and Koweit.

No. 113.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 97.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 1, 1902.

IN your Excellency's despatch No. 402 of the 17th August, 1899, you stated that you had instructed His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to communicate direct with His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire on matters connected with Koweit, and also to report at once to the Viceroy of India if any emergency arose which required immediate action.

The Secretary of State for India has now asked that Mr. Wratislaw may be instructed to repeat to the Viceroy any information in regard to the affairs of Koweit which he considers it necessary to telegraph to you.

I request that you will instruct Mr. Wratislaw as suggested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 114.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.-(Received April 2.)

(No. 49.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 2, 1902.

KOWEIT. My despatch No. 153 of the 1st instant and my telegram No. 143 of the 27th ultimo.

I am informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he has received the Sultan's orders to deny in the most formal manner that the occupation of Kasima or Sobieh is contemplated by the Turkish Government.

No. 115.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 2, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 21st February, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you copies of a note from the Turkish Ambassador, dated the 14th ultimo, in regard to affairs in the neighbourhood of Koweit, and of his Lordship's reply.*

Lord Lansdowne has now received a further note from Anthopoulo Pasha, of which a copy is also inclosed,† complaining that British ships of war continue to make evolutions in Turkish waters in the direction of Nejd, and that parties land from them and commit acts of a nature to disturb the population.

I am to request that the Secretary of State for India will favour Lord Lansdowne with his observations on these complaints.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* Nos. 81 and 94.

† No. 102.

No. 116.

India Office to Foreign Office.-(Received April 3.)

Sir,

India Office, April 3, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a telegram from the Governor-General on the subject of the situation at Koweit.

It appears to Lord George Hamilton that the practical point with regard to which further instructions are required by the Viceroy is the question of the limits of the territory which His Majesty's Government regard as belonging indisputably to the Sheikh of Koweit, and upon which His Majesty's Government are prepared to support the Sheikh against encroachment.

His Lordship will be glad to receive an expression of Lord Lansdowne's views upon this point, the question having been raised in Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 43 of the 27th ultimo, in regard to the Turkish advance to Sobieh.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, March 26, 1902.

THE following is the sense of the communication which is to be addressed to the Porte:—

Koweit having been acknowledged to be part of Ottoman Dominions, His Majesty's Government do not wish to encourage Sheikh to throw off allegiance to Sultan. They do not wish to enter into irritating discussions about movements of Turkish troops to places claimed by the Sheikh, but of which the title is difficult to prove; they must, however, protect him from encroachments. As to the Bagdad Railway, they do not desire to obstruct its extension to Koweit or elsewhere on the Gulf; but an essential condition of their assistance is that in respect of construction, material, and management, British capital should receive at least an equal share with that of any other Power. This condition is claimed because British financial co-operation is necessary, and British interest in the commerce of the Gulf is predominant. British efforts in the past have opened the trade of the Gulf, and must safeguard it in the future. To secure the goodwill of the Sheikh of Koweit, and to restrain piracy, British co-operation will be required, whatever the points at which the terminus of the railway may be located.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

March 29, 1902.

WE do not understand the policy of His Majesty's Government regarding Koweit indicated in your telegram of 26th March. The position hitherto taken up was defined in Lord Lansdowne's letter acquainting Sir F. Lascelles of 12th September, 1901, as one of large measure of practical independence; see also O'Connor's despatch to Lord Lansdowne of 10th September, 1901. Is the abandonment of this position involved in the acknowledgment of Koweit as part of Ottoman Dominions? Again, what encroachment and where is meant when it is declared that His Majesty's Government intend to support the Sheikh against encroachment? Is it proposed to resist the advance of Turkish troops on the Koweit side of Khor Subieh? Since *status quo* is in danger of being whittled away, and the above questions may assume practical importance at any moment, we shall be grateful for more explicit instructions.

No. 117.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 3, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 3rd instant, inclosing a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India in regard to Koweit.

It appears to Lord Lansdowne that the Viceroy has not fully apprehended the meaning of the instructions sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in his telegram No. 54 of the 24th ultimo. The Viceroy seems to be under the impression that Sir N. O'Connor was to announce, as a new departure, the admission by His Majesty's Government that Koweit formed part of the Ottoman Dominions.

No new departure was, however, intended. What was contemplated was that Sir N. O'Connor should, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, begin by the admission, not by any means made by them for the first time, that Koweit is within the Turkish Empire, with all the qualification upon which His Majesty's Government have throughout insisted as to the unsubstantial character of the Sultan's authority over the locality, and the reality of the "large measure of practical independence" which they have always claimed for the Sheikh. No new acknowledgment of the Sultan's authority over Koweit was intended, and it will be seen from the inclosed copy of a despatch from Sir N. O'Connor* that, in explaining to the Grand Vizier the views of His Majesty's Government, he, in fact, stopped short of referring to Koweit as being within the Sultan's dominions.

Lord Lansdowne sees no reason for receding from the position taken up by His Majesty's Government in regard to Koweit, as explained in his despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, No. 312 of the 12th September, 1901; but he considers that they could scarcely support the statement made by Sir N. O'Connor in his despatch No. 342 of the 10th September, 1901, that they could not admit the Sultan's authority over Koweit. His Majesty's Government have repeatedly made admissions inconsistent with this statement.

If the Secretary of State for India concurs in these views, Lord Lansdowne would suggest that they should be explained to the Viceroy in some detail by telegraph.

His Excellency might be further informed that His Majesty's Government have no desire to see the *status quo* at Koweit "whittled out of existence;" that they wish to preserve for the Sheikh both his privileges and his territory, but that these, particularly the latter, are unfortunately not sufficiently defined.

That His Majesty's Government desire, firstly, to avoid being entangled in irritating disputes upon doubtful points, and, secondly, to have it understood that their rights and policy in the Persian Gulf do not depend upon their shadowy connection with the Sheikh, but upon other and broader considerations, and that, in order to establish their claim to have a voice in such questions as the location of a railway terminus at a particular point on the shore of the Gulf, it is not necessary to begin by proving that that point falls within the limits of the territory of Koweit.

Finally, that, as a question of practical politics, His Majesty's Government would resist a Turkish advance on the Koweit side of Subiyeh.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 118.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April 4.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 3, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence as to affairs at Koweit, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter, dated the 22nd February last, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Fox" relative to the state of affairs in the Persian Gulf, together with a copy of a letter, dated the

* No. 108.

20th February, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Sphinx," reporting his proceedings during a visit to the Khor Abdulla and Um Kasr.

2. A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Captain Pelham to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

Sir,

"Fox," at Koweit, February 22, 1902.

IN confirmation of my telegram of this date, I have the honour to inclose a letter from Commander Kemp relative to his visit in His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" up the Khor Abdulla.

Previous to his sailing to ascertain the exact positions occupied by the Turks on the Khor Abdulla, I directed him, confidentially, to observe, as far as he could in so short a visit and without giving offence, the possibilities of Um Kasr as an alternative harbour for the terminus of the proposed German railway from Bagdad, as, from information received from the Resident, Boshire, I gathered that an alternative position might be meditated.

Commander Kemp's Report fully bears out the idea formed in my own mind from local inquiries that Um Kasr has the making of an uncommonly secure commercial harbour, and if his hurried estimate of its capabilities is accurate, it places a doubtful relative value on Koweit, with its very shoal waters, which necessitate long and extensive piers to accommodate shipment and disembarkation of goods, as compared with Um Kasr, with its deep and sheltered waters.

I inclose Commander Kemp's sketch of Khor Um Kasr, which is situated opposite the north-west corner of Warba Island, and is not shown on our charts, which, as previously mentioned, are quite unreliable and inaccurate for those parts.

You will observe that, as indicated in my letter of the 31st January, the Turkish advance to Um Kasr has been followed by the further advance to Jezirat Boobiyan, whither they are now transporting stones and building a house, apparently for stores and living in.

Sheikh Mubarek complains bitterly at this continual encroachment on the part of the Turkish armed forces on ground which he persists has belonged to Koweit for many years and never been occupied before by Turks.

As regards Jezirat Boobiyan, rent is actually paid to merchants in Koweit for the ground occupied for agriculture.

With reference to the incident reported by Commander Kemp as happening at the Turkish camp at Um Kasr on the 15th instant, Mubarek entirely disavows any responsibility, and states that the Bedouins who surrounded the camp on that occasion were "muntafij" and Turkish subjects, who work in the Bussorah date plantations in summer and in winter take their flocks out for grazing.

2. The health of the ships' companies on the division continue very good, with the exception of the "Sphinx," on which ship I reported to you last week.

3. Movements of ships and foreign men-of-war attached.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. S. PELHAM,

Captain and Senior Officer, Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Commander Kemp to Captain Pelham.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

"Sphinx," at Koweit, February 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Koweit on Friday, the 14th February, and proceeded up the Khor Abdulla, when I anchored about half-way for the night. I went on next day, and at 1:30 p.m. anchored two miles south-east of Um Kasr, in 10 fathoms of water, about 300 yards from the western shore. When we approached the anchorage I saw some Bedouins on the beach, who appeared to be frightened at the appearance of the ship, and who were running about collecting their flocks, &c. I therefore sent my

interpreter to them to reassure them, and to tell them that I meant them no harm. While the interpreter was on the beach he found one of Sheikh Mubarek's men, named Ebrahim, and brought him on board to speak to me. At 3 P.M. I landed with this man and my interpreter and two of my officers, whom I had directed to ascertain the geographical position of the point on the beach opposite the ship by shore sights. When I landed I saw some Turkish soldiers with an officer coming towards us from the direction of the Turkish camp at Um Kasr, 2 miles north-west from where we were.

I answered such questions as the Turkish officer asked me, and asked to visit his camp, to which he agreed, and I proceeded there in company with him.

The camp consists of ten tents, with forty men, in a rectangle inclosed by a ruined mud wall, and with a ruined mud tower, which the Turks use as a look-out. With the exception of the Turkish soldiers, no one lives there, and there are no houses, towns, &c.

While I was in the Turkish officer's tent, writing down for him the name of the ship, &c., and exchanging civilities, the following incident occurred.

One of his men reported something to him which seemed to disturb him greatly, and he ran out of the tent. My interpreter told me it had something to do with the Bedouins.

I went out of the tent and found the post surrounded by about seventy Bedouins, who were standing about 100 yards away, some mounted and some on foot, and armed with rifles, spears, &c.

The Turkish soldiers were lying down under the mud wall, and it was evident to me at once that they were quite out of hand, and that they were preparing to open fire on the Bedouins.

The officer was in a pitiable state of agitation, and for the moment had lost command of his men.

I caused my interpreter to inform him and his soldiers that there must be no firing, and promised to make the Arabs disperse.

The latter came no nearer, and as soon as the Turks were a little reassured, I took Ebrahim, the Sheikh's man with me, leaving my interpreter in the camp, and went out to the Arabs and commanded them to return to their encampment, which they did.

The Turkish officer professed to believe that our visit was prearranged with the Arabs for the purpose of attacking his post, and sent off messengers to Safwan for reinforcements. He told me he expected 150 men in a few hours, but no one had arrived when I visited him again the next day.

On my way back to the ship I visited the Arab camp (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Turks'), and saw the Headman, who said they belonged to Mubarek, and expressed themselves devoted to him.

I pointed out to them the folly of their conduct in advancing on the Turks, and told them that to attack the Turks without special orders from their Sheikh was an act of treachery to him.

To this they assented, and promised in future not to approach the Turks so closely as to put the latter in doubt of their intentions.

I was careful, however, not to suggest to them to leave the vicinity of the place, or that they had no right there.

I have reported the incident at some length as the Turkish officer expressed his intention of making a report about it to Bussorah. The Turks at Um Kasr have done nothing towards improving the defence of the post in the way of trenches or strengthening the mud wall, which is so ruined that mounted Arabs could charge right in.

The Arabs complain of the Turks for stealing their sheep and oppressing them in other ways, and there seems to be a very bitter feeling between them.

The latitude and longitude of the spot on the beach opposite the ship was $30^{\circ} 1' 20''$ N., and $47^{\circ} 57' 57''$ E. This position may be relied on to be correct. Um Kasr lies 2 miles north-west of this.

It will thus be seen that Um Kasr is situated on the western side of a khor (which I have called Khor Um Kasr), which is faintly represented on Chart 2837 *a* as running in to the north-west from the north-west side of Worba Island. We could see no sign of the large khor shown on the chart as existing about 4 miles to north-east of this.

Khor Um Kasr is a broad deep waterway, and extends, I believe, up to Zobeir, which is 35 miles N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. of Um Kasr. It will be thus seen that this khor affords a waterway for smaller ships directly on the flank of the Turkish line from Bussorah, through Zubhin, Safwan, and Um Kasr.

Safwan and Zubhin have each about 300 troops. The former is situated 20 miles north-west from Um Kasr, and the latter about 35 miles N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

Khor Um Kasr would be accessible to ships of any draught through Khor Abdulla were it not for a narrow and shallow channel off the eastern end of Worba Island, and this has at least 18 feet at high water, and probably more, and once past it you are in deep water.

With the exception of this channel, which might be dredged, Um Kasr would, I should think, make a good terminus for a railway, as far as natural advantages are concerned, as there is good accommodation for ships close to the shore.

Um Kasr has a good water supply, and there is grazing ground for sheep but not for horses.

I left Um Kasr on the 17th February and proceeded through the channel between the south end of Worba Island and north side of Boobiyan into the Khor As Sobiye. Khor As Sobiye is also connected with Khor Um Kasr by a channel shown on chart on north-west side of Worba Island, but this was so narrow I did not care to take the ship in.

I anchored the same evening in Khor As Sobiye on a spot between the 4 and 2 fathoms marked on chart, about 6 miles north of Sobiye.

I visited Sobiye next day by boat. It consists of a few date trees and mud walls, and was occupied by some of Sheikh Mubarek's men who had come round the day before in a dhow.

I left again on the 19th February and anchored off the south-west corner of Worba, about a spot marked 7 fathoms on the chart, in order to sound round and ascertain what manner of harbour it would make.

I found the deep-water channel is rather narrow, but still there is good accommodation for the largest ships, and were it dredged on either side of the channel it would make a very fine harbour. It is quite landlocked, and a good anchorage.

In my opinion, as a railway terminus—so far as natural advantages of a harbour go—it is far in excess of Koweit; and were the Khor Abdulla surveyed and buoyed would, I believe, be accessible to ships of all draughts.

Proceeding down the Khor Abdulla I observed a Turkish post on the south-east part of Boobiyan Island, close to the small peninsula shown on the chart.

I therefore anchored for the night and visited it next morning.

There are four tents with an officer and twenty men.

The officer told me they had come from Um Kasr, that they had been there a fortnight, and that it is intended to occupy the post permanently. There is a brick house in course of construction for the reception of stores, &c.

As far as I could make out there is no water supply, and they are dependent for this and for all other supplies on Fao. No Arabs live in Boobiyan Island.

During this trip, with the exception of the Sheikh's dhow at Sobiye and two dhows plying between Fao and the Turkish post in Boobiyan, I saw not a single boat, nor, with the exception of the people I have mentioned, any signs of life.

I propose, as soon as possible, to forward for your information a more detailed account of the hydrographical features of these khors and channels, together with an enlarged sketch of our route showing the soundings, a record of every cast having been taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. KEMP.

No. 119.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 153.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 1, 1902.

I ASKED the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning whether any reply had been received from the Palace in respect to the representations I had made to him a few days ago about the reported dispatch of Turkish troops to Sobieh and Kasima. I was, I said, anxious to be able without further delay to assure your Lordship that there was no ground for this rumour, and that the Ottoman Government were firmly resolved to respect the arrangement made with His Majesty's Government, and to put a stop to all further encroachments upon the territory of the Sheikh of Koweit.

[1518]

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His Excellency replied that the Imperial Government had no intention of sending troops to either of the places I had named, and that he authorized me to give your Lordship assurances to this effect.

I remarked that he must not be surprised at my hesitating to convey such assurances to your Lordship, in view of the fact that both Umkasr and Bubian Island were occupied after he had repeatedly assured me that the Ottoman Government would respect the *status quo*, and that no encroachments would be made upon the Koweit territory. I had already told his Excellency that the occupation of these places could not be regarded as in any way prejudicing the Sheikh's rights and authority over them, and it was with extreme astonishment that I had subsequently heard a report of an intention to occupy two other localities which were still nearer to Koweit. If the Ottoman Government proceeded in this manner they would very soon bring matters to a crisis, and instead of trying to attain a satisfactory and reliable settlement of this question regarding the Sheikh's rights by means of friendly negotiation, I should certainly advise His Majesty's Government not to allow any further encroachments, and to prevent it by force if necessary.

Tewfik Pasha said that a report had been presented to the Sultan two days ago stating that the Council of Ministers strongly deprecated any further advance in the direction of Koweit, but that no answer had yet been received. He was, however, going at once to the Palace, and he hoped to be able to send me word to-morrow that the Sultan authorized the Grand Vizier to send orders to the Vali of Bussorah in the sense desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 120.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Secretary of State to the Viceroy, dated the 4th instant, relating to the reported intention of the Turks to occupy Sobieh or Kasima.

India Office, April 7, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, April 4, 1902.

O'CONOR reports a communication from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to the effect that the Sultan has instructed him to deny, in the most formal manner, any intention to occupy Sobieh or Kasima.

No. 121.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th instant, relating to the Koweit law-suit.

India Office, April 8, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 7, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 18th ultimo, Resident Persian Gulf reports 5th instant that Consul Bussorah telegraphs opposition made by Sheikh of Koweit's lawyer, and that case will be retried 8th instant.

No. 122.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 20th March, relating to Koweit affairs.

India Office, April 9, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, February 19, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that the news of the capture of Riadh by Abdul Aziz has been confirmed from several sources. It is further said that he has repaired the wall round Riadh, and that the inhabitants of Aridh and other places have joined him.

2. Abdul Aziz is the son of Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal, the brother of Abdullah-bin-Feysal, the last of the Wahabi Amirs. This Abdul Rahman was, it will be remembered, the person who headed the revolt of the partisans of the Al Saood dynasty against Muhammad Ibn Rashid, the Amir of Nejd, in 1891. On his total defeat by Ibn Rashid he had to seek safety in flight, together with the broken remnants of the Al Saood. He has been in receipt of a pension from the Turkish Government, and has of recent years resided at Koweit, where he now is. Whether his son, Abdul Aziz, will be able to re-establish himself in the kingdom of his ancestors remains to be seen. His ultimate defeat by Ibn Rashid would seem to be probable.

Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, February 20, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 19th instant, I have the honour to forward copies of despatches addressed by His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of Sheikh Mubarak-el-Sabah's estates situated in Turkish territory.

Inclosure 3 in No. 122.

Consul Wratishaw to Sir N. O'Conor, No. 6, Confidential, February 8, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 122.

Consul Wratistlaw to Sir N. O'Connor, No. 7, February 15, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 122.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, February 28, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram dated the 25th February, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf, submitting the Report by Commander Kemp, of His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" of his visit to the Khor Abdulla and Um Kasr.

The visit of the "Sphinx" has, I think, been very useful, as the correct position of the Um Kasr and Subbiya is now known, and the recent occupation by the Turks of a place on Jezirat Bubiyan has been discovered.

Commander Kemp's cool behaviour when the Arabs approached the Turkish camp at Um Kasr is, in my opinion, deserving of high praise.

2. The Senior Naval Officer has been good enough to furnish me with a map, herewith submitted, showing the position of the various localities. The place, Um Kasr, is evidently the place mentioned by Colonel Pelly, *vide* paragraph 128, dated the 13th April, 1863, as Moom Gussar, a small port, "situate at the head of the Khor Abdulla near Bunder Zobeir," which was formerly occupied by the progenitors of the Shaikhs of Koweit and from which they were, according to Colonel Pelly, expelled by the Bussorah authorities, now nearly 300 years ago. Mubarak, however, informs me that it was more recently occupied by Koweit people in the time of his grandfather Shaikh Jaber, and the fact of the ruins of what was apparently a fort now remaining seems to bear this out. In paragraph 135 of the same letter Colonel Pelly states:—

"Koweit has a fine broad channel of creek water running from its bay up to within 12 miles of the Bussorah point of the river. I landed close alongside the Zobeir Bunder in 4 fathoms; and this was the least water I found in a mid-channel of an average width of 1 mile from the Koweit end of the creek up to its head within sight of the date trees of the Shaat-el-Arab near Bussorah. The cutting of a canal across these 12 miles of flat soil would be a work of little cost and labour."

Our existing charts of this locality appear to be very incomplete and I have hitherto been unable to clearly understand Colonel Pelly's meaning. The broad channel of creek water up which Colonel Pelly went, must, I think, be the Khor Subbiya which leads directly into the Zobeir Creek, on which Um Kasr is. The remarks made by Colonel Pelly in paragraph 20 of his report, dated the 15th May, 1866, regarding the Khor Abdulla and Zobeir Creek, and the possibilities of the latter place in connection with a railway line to the Mediterranean, are also of great interest.

3. I have already reported to the Government of India that both Safwan and Um Kasr are claimed by the Shaikh of Koweit as within his territory. With regard to Safwan, I am not in a position to form an opinion, but it seems to me that his claim to Um Kasr may be more valid. It has been, I understand, for very many years an uninhabited spot, and has been used by Koweit people as a port for Bussorah. At any rate, even if Mubarak's claims to the place are not very strong, the Turkish claim would not appear to be much stronger, and the recent occupation by them would seem to be a breach of the *status quo*.

With regard to Bubiyan Island, the establishment of a Turkish post on this island at the entrance to the Khor Abdulla cannot, I think, be viewed with equanimity by us. Mubarak has written to me on the subject of this place, and states that the island, like Failaka Island, belongs to him, and that the Avazem tribe, who are subject to him, have been living there since the occupation of Koweit. This tribe, he says, have fishing inclosures there, and reside on the island for seven months during the summer.

Inclosure 6 in No. 122.

Captain Pelham to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

"Fox," at Koweit, February 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Commander Kemp with reference to the visit of His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" to the Khor Abdulla, with reference to which Mubarak entirely disowns the Bedouins who surrounded the Turkish camp on the 15th instant.

He persists that they were "Muntafij," and Turkish subjects, and in no way under him.

You will observe from this letter of Commander Kemp's the great capabilities of Um Kasr as a terminus of the German railway as compared with Koweit, and the urgent necessity in my mind of removing the Turks from Um Kasr and Bubiyan if Koweit is to be of any value to us.

If possible, Safwan should also certainly be included in Koweit territory.

Inclosure 7 in No. 122.

Commander Kemp to Captain Pelham, February 20, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 122.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, March 2, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, translated purport of an interesting account in Arabic of the recent capture of Riyadh by Abdul Aziz-bin-Saood, which was forwarded to me by the Assistant Political Agent in Bahrein.

Inclosure 9 in No. 122.

Translated purport of an Account of the Capture of Riyadh by Shaikh Abdul Aziz-bin-Shaikh Abdur Rahman-el-Faisal Al Saood.

IN the month of Ramazan, while at the village of Waisa, near El Hassa, Abdul Aziz-Abdur Rahman devised a plan of going to Riyadh, but he did not acquaint his followers with the project. He told them that on the 5th of Shawal he would lead a marauding expedition against the Bedouins of Nejd, and all the Arabs prepared themselves accordingly. He, however, left with eighty followers on the 26th Ramazan, or ten days before the fixed date, for the south, so as to put the people off the scent, and no one could surmise what would be his ultimate destination.

On the 14th Shawal, at dead of night, he arrived and encamped at a distance of one-and-a-half hours' march from Riyadh. Here he divulged the real object of his expedition to his followers, and invited those who favoured his scheme to follow him, giving others the option of leaving if they elected to do so; but they all unanimously promised him their cordial support and declared that they would not forsake him to the last. From this camp they all proceeded on foot under cover of the night to a date grove in close proximity of the city walls, where Abdul Aziz ordered the main portion of his party to wait for his orders, meanwhile he would go and find out a place to serve as an ambush until daybreak, which would be a more convenient opportunity for their attack as the Palace would be easily accessible during the day. His followers, however, were averse to his going, and suggested that some one else should be sent instead, but Abdul Aziz told them that it was imperative for their ends that he should see to it personally. He accordingly

left with eight picked men belonging to the Jalwi family, his brother and some of his special retainers, leaving the rest in the date grove to await his instructions and with orders not to load their guns lest one of them might go off and warn the inmates of the garden of their presence. And Providence led his footsteps to a house adjoining that of Ajlan, the owner of which was known to him, and he knocked at the door. This took place at eight hours after nightfall. The owner of the house asked who he was and what he wanted, and Abdul Aziz in reply gave the name of a certain retainer of Bin Rashid's who was known to the owner of the house, adding that he was sent there by Ajlan* to call him because a messenger had arrived from the Amir and Ajlan wanted him immediately. Upon this the house owner flung the door open, and Abdul Aziz at once seized him and put a dagger to his throat, and having informed him that he was Abdul Aziz, bade him be quiet, failing which he would be killed. Abdul Aziz ordered his men to stop the women from raising an alarm, and at once sent a member of the Jalwi family to summon his troops, who all came and joined him without attracting any attention. After this Abdul Aziz went to the house of Ajlan, caught hold of his wife and threatened her with death unless she kept quiet. Some of the followers of Abdul Aziz now entered Ajlan's house, while the rest remained in the adjoining house. Abdul Aziz then inquired and learnt from Ajlan's wife that he generally returned from the Palace at one hour after sunrise.

The gates of Ajlan's house and the Palace face each other. When the time for Ajlan's return drew near they opened the wicket in the gates and took their horses out in the sun, and half-an-hour after this Ajlan left the Palace for his house but was intercepted by Abdul Aziz. He at once retreated, making for the Palace, but Abdul Aziz overtook him before he could enter the gates and slew him on the threshold. Abdul Aziz then seized the gates, and his followers immediately entered the Palace and killed all its inmates.

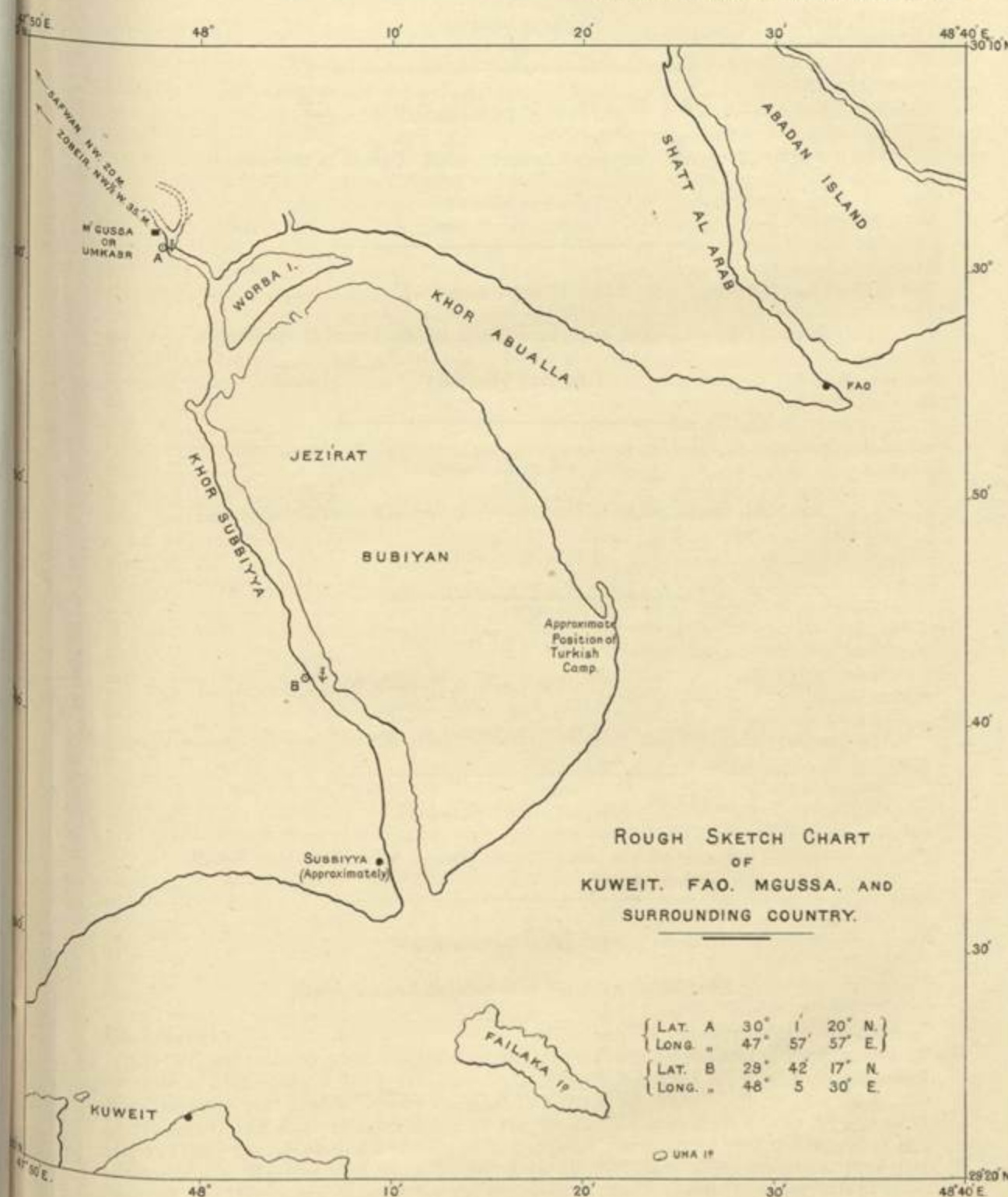
According to authentic news Ajlan, his brother and fourteen others fell in this small action, and the Palace, with a quantity of arms and ammunition, together with a number of horses, fell into the hands of Abdul Aziz. The townspeople were not aware of the advent of Abdul Aziz until after they heard the reports of the guns. Abdul Aziz then posted himself on the top of the Palace and announced to the people that Bin Saood had reconquered his country and invited all who professed to be pacific to give up their arms. He subsequently summoned them to the Palace and addressed them on the misrule of Bin Rashid and on the leniency and kindness of the previous Rulers belonging to his own family, and they all entered into a covenant with him, and he commenced the fortification of the walls and the fort, the Palace having been already thoroughly fortified by Bin Rashid.

The people of Nejd Bedouins, as well as settled residents, are all unanimously in favour of Bin Saood, and would readily uphold his cause as soon as they are convinced that he is sufficiently strong. Ben Rashid's Walis have been expelled from some of the villages, and most have abandoned their posts and gone to join Bin Rashid. It is reported that the people of Hareek† have turned out Bin Rashid's Wali and the revenue of Kharj has been paid to Abdul Aziz.

The Arab Shaikhs have all flocked round Abdul Aziz, and it is reported that an emissary from the Shaibance has gone to the Ataiba to tell the latter of the former's intention to join them. The Bin Humeid, the Bin Rabian, the Bin Hadlan, the Zabeit and the Salail are all sub-sections of the Ataiba and have concentrated at (the Ataiba) head-quarters. These are the most powerful Bedouins in Nejd, and most of them are opposed to Bin Rashid. It is possible they may number about 5,000 horse all told (besides a considerable number of foot). The Dowasir, the Arji, the Sabea, the Soohool and the Al Shamer Arabs are all opposed to Bin Rashid and have gone to join Bin Saood, with whom are also the Ajmad, the Murrah and the Mutair; and the remaining nomadic Bedouins of Nejd, viz., the Shammer, the Horb, the Zafeer, the Khatan and the Buraid, who are the only Arabs favourable to Bin Rashid, are watching the turn of events and would cast in their lots with the stronger party, but the Shammer are Bin Rashid's own tribe.

* Presumably the Deputy of the Amir of Nejd.—C. A. K.
† Just over 100 miles south-east of Riyadh.—H. DALY.

Inclosure 15 in India Office of April 9th 1902



Inclosure 10 in No. 122.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton, March 17, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 11 in No. 122.

*Government of India to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet, March 17, 1902.**

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 12 in No. 122.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India, March 15, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 13 in No. 122.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India, March 15, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 14 in No. 122.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India, March 15, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 15 in No. 122.

Rough Sketch Chart of Koweit, Fao, Maussa, and surrounding Country.

Inclosure 16 in No. 122.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

"Highflyer," at Bombay, March 13, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th February last and in confirmation of my reply of 24th idem, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of correspondence regarding the recent proceedings of the Turks on the Khor Abdulla.

In forwarding this correspondence to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I informed their Lordships that I concurred in Captain Pelham's view that the shores of the harbour of Um Kasr will probably be found to afford better accommodation than the shores of the Harbour of Koweit for the terminus of the proposed German railway from Baghdad, and that the accessibility of the Khor Um Kasr for ships of heavy draught is at present limited by the shallow channel off the eastern end of Warda Island, which, however, could be dredged.

* Also to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Inclosure 17 in No. 122.

Captain Pelham to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet, February 22, 1902

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 18 in No. 122.

Commander Kemp to Captain Pelham, February 20, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 19 in No. 122.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India, March 17, 1902.

[Already printed.]

No. 123.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 10.)

Sir,

India Office, April 9, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, forwarding a complaint by the Turkish Ambassador as to the alleged proceedings of British ships of war in Ottoman waters on the coast of Nejd.

In reply, I am to say that his Lordship is at a loss to know to what proceedings the complaint refers, and he would suggest that Anthopoulos Pasha should be asked to furnish details as to the acts complained of.

If the complaint concerns the Indian surveying vessel "Investigator," the matter has already been explained in Lord Lansdowne's note of the 20th ultimo.

If, on the other hand, it refers to proceedings of His Majesty's ships, Lord George Hamilton has no special information on the subject, but he presumes that the presence of a naval force in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf is, in existing circumstances, necessary.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 124.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April 12.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 9, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Secretary of State that a survey of the west end of Koweit Bay has been made by the officers of His Majesty's ship "Sphinx."

This survey is now in process of reproduction by the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty in chart form, and copies will be forwarded to your Department when ready.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 125.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 159.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 8, 1902.

I HAD the honour, in my telegram No. 49 of the 2nd instant, to report to your Lordship that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been instructed by the Sultan to assure me in the most formal manner that the Ottoman Government had no intention to occupy Sobieh or Kasima.

In making this communication, his Excellency added that the Sultan had inquired from the Minister of War and the local military authorities, and had been informed that the rumour of any such intended occupation was without foundation and could only have been originated by "des personnes malveillantes."

This statement can hardly be true, as the Council of Ministers would scarcely have considered the matter in solemn conclave, and presented a Mazbata to His Imperial Majesty against the occupation, unless the idea had been entertained. I am rather inclined to think on the contrary, that the subject was at least under consideration, and that the intimation I gave the Foreign Minister that the occupation of these places, which were by all accounts certainly within the Sheikh's territory, would not be allowed, provoked the assurances which were given to me on the 2nd instant.

I learn from another source that the Sublime Porte expressed to the German Embassy, which is kept closely informed of all that passes about Koweit, their fears that His Majesty's Government intended to extend their protection over places other than those within the jurisdiction of the Sheikh, but I have nothing to show that the reported intention to occupy Sobieh and Kasima was due to the instigation of that Embassy.

In speaking to the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday I told him that I learnt from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah that the Sheikh's lawyer had made opposition to the judgment by default in connection with some of the Sheikh's landed estates in Turkey, and that the case would be retried to-morrow.

I reminded his Excellency of the remarks I had already made on this subject, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 144 of the 25th ultimo, but I did not feel justified in making a direct request for interference with the proceedings of a Court of Law, although I observed that such apparently had been the case while the Sheikh of Koweit was on friendly terms with the Ottoman Government and his nephews were then, as now, the plaintiffs.

The Minister appeared to appreciate my reserve, and gave me to understand that it would probably take years before the case was finally settled on appeal to the Court of Cassation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 126.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 13th March, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, April 12, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, February 17, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram dated the 13th February, on the subject of Koweit, I have the honour to inform you that I had already advised Sheikh Mubarek to make "opposition" to the judgment regarding his estates.

I did not consider it necessary to reply immediately to your telegram which had evidently crossed my letter, dated the 2nd February, which explains the judgment referred to. I have since received from Mr. Wratislaw copy of a telegram sent by him to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 13th instant, reporting that the Wali has told the Sheikh's nephews to accept arbitration concerning the property according to the Iradé of 1898, but that the nephews refused; further that he has heard that the Wali has ordered the Court to suspend proceedings.

2. With regard to the warning to be given to the Sheikh against allowing his partisans to raid the Amir's territory, I have no reason to believe that the Sheikh has in any way departed from his promise to me that he would neither commit nor countenance any aggression against the Amir. I do not think that he is in any way responsible for the proceedings of Abdul Aziz reported in my letter dated the 6th instant. I will, however, take an early opportunity of again warning the Sheikh seriously in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

No. 127.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 133.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 14, 1902.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a note from the Turkish Ambassador which his Excellency left at this Office on the 27th ultimo,* complaining of the proceedings of British vessels of war in Turkish territorial waters in the direction of Nejd.

I have informed his Excellency to-day that the Secretary of State for India, to whom I referred the matter, has replied that he is unable, from the information in his possession, to understand to what proceedings the complaint refers, and that it is impossible for him to make inquiries unless some further details are furnished. I also reminded his Excellency that he had been informed, when he left the note, that special instructions had been given to the British naval officers to avoid any acts which could give rise to misunderstandings, and I added that there was no reason to suppose that these instructions had been in any way disregarded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 128.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 12th April, relative to the Koweit law suit.

India Office, April 16, 1902.

* No. 102.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 12, 1902.

ON 11th April, Resident in Persian Gulf reports information from Consul at Bussorah that the case against the Sheikh of Koweit has been adjourned [?] so that a communication on the subject of the Iradé ordering the settlement of the dispute by the Commission may be addressed to the Minister of Justice. This Iradé is quoted by the lawyer.

No. 129.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, April 19.)

Sir,

Bussorah, March 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the total number of troops now in Bussorah and its immediate neighbourhood amounts to between 2,300 and 2,400. This is exclusive of the 230 men whose departure in the gun-boat "Zohaf" for Katif has already been reported by telegraph.

In Bussorah itself and Zobeir there are approximately 1,500 infantry, a battalion of field artillery, 300 cavalry (mounted on mules), and 100 sundries, chiefly sappers ("istikzomat Alai").

At the posts recently occupied outside, viz., Sefwan, Umkasr, and Bubian Island, there are 350 infantry and 50 cavalry.

With regard to future movements, I hear that more troops are expected from the Euphrates, that further reinforcements will be sent to the garrison in Hassa, and that two more military posts are to be established in addition to the three mentioned above.

One of these would be at Hejéjé, near Sobieh. So much procrastination and vacillation is, however, manifested by the Turkish authorities in their execution of their plans in these regions that it is impossible to be sure of anything in advance.

The delay in the departure of the "Zohaf" was due to the refusal of the Ministry of Marine to allow her to start until the Ministry of War had paid in advance for coal and conveyance of the soldiers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 130.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, April 19.)

(No. 12. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, March 22, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 30 of the 18th March last, I have the honour to report that the envoy sent by Ibn Reschid to ask for assistance from the Turks is still at Bussorah, and has not yet received a final answer. If help is to be given him, it must be given at once, as in another month or so the time for campaigning in Arabia will be over.

It will possibly suit the Turkish Government to allow the present state of things in Nejd to continue. Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdurrahman-ibn-Saoud, in announcing the capture of Riyadh to the Vali of Bussorah, declared, I am informed, that he would hold it under the Sultan; and the latter can hardly fail to profit by the division of power in Central Arabia, so long as the rivals continue to recognize his suzerainty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 131.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 129.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 19, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 153 of the 1st instant, reporting a conversation with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the reported dispatch of Turkish troops to Subieh and Kasima.

I approve the language held by your Excellency to Tewfik Pasha on this occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 132.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 178.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 16, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 159 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that I received to-day a telegram from Mr. Wratislaw, which was six days *en route*, stating that the case connected with the Sheikh of Koweit's lawsuit respecting his Turkish property was adjourned in order to allow the Court to communicate with the Minister of Justice concerning an *Irade* to settle it amicably or by arbitration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 133.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of an inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 3rd instant, relative to the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit to Bubiyan Island.

India Office, April 19, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, March 16, 1902.

IN amplification of my telegram dated the 15th March, I venture most respectfully to make some further remarks on the subject of the decision of His Majesty's Government that it will be difficult to maintain, with our present information, that the action of the Ottoman authorities in Bubiyan or Um Kasr constitutes a disturbance of the *status quo* at Koweit, and, consequently, that we must be content with the maintenance of the Sheikh's authority over Koweit, including the bay and Kasima.

With regard to Um Kasr, it is true that the claim made by the Sheikh is not particularly strong; it would, perhaps, be correct to consider the place as a sort of "no man's land," which, as explained in my letter dated the 28th February, appears to have had some kind of connection with Koweit, but where Turkish authority has not hitherto been exercised. Bubiyan Island is, I understand, a low-lying mud-flat, uninhabited, and probably uninhabitable, but which, the Sheikh of Koweit states, is resorted to for fishing purposes during the summer months by a tribe owing allegiance to him. Taking these facts into consideration, and admitting that the Sheikh's claim to ownership of these places independently of Turkey may not be very strong, I do not think that it therefore follows that the *status quo* at Koweit has not been disturbed by the recent occupation of these places by the Turks. The advance of Turkish troops is viewed

by Sheikh Mubarak with great concern; his prestige as Sheikh of Koweit has undoubtedly been thereby diminished, and it appears to me that his position as an independent Ruler will be considerably weakened. The Government of India will be aware that when the Nakib of Bussorah recently visited Koweit with the threatening message from the Sultan of Turkey, the Sheikh was evidently wavering in his mind, and considering whether it would not be to his interest to make the best terms he could with the Turks. The crisis was then averted owing to the presence at Koweit of His Majesty's ships of war and the support which was given to the Sheikh, who maintained his loyalty to his agreement with His Majesty's Government. Now, however, his position has again become difficult; the Turkish advances are apparently intended to constitute a direct menace to Koweit; they practically have closed the communications between Koweit and Bussorah, and presumably must affect adversely the interests of the people of Koweit, and, consequently, diminish the popularity of the Sheikh, while strengthening the hands of his enemies. Clearly, therefore, it seems to me, if we wish to maintain our hold over Koweit, the presence of His Majesty's ships at Koweit as a direct support to the Sheikh must be continued for an indefinite period. The Government of India will, I am sure, understand that I have no desire to criticise the decision to which His Majesty's Government have come with regard to the occupation of these places by the Turks; but I feel it incumbent on me to lay before the Government my views as to the effect which is likely to result from the Turkish movements, and of the alteration in the *status quo* which has, in my opinion, actually taken place.

2. From the information which has reached me from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, and which was embodied in my telegram of the 15th instant, regarding the expected dispatch of Turkish sappers to Bubiyan, it is, I think, evident that the importance of the Khor Abdulla has been recognized by the Turks.

3. With regard to the place Hejeje, referred to in my telegram dated the 14th instant, I am informed by the Senior Naval Officer that this place is on the Koweit side of the Khor Subbiya, 4 miles north of Subbiya and 7 miles from the mouth of the Khor. The Sheikh states that some of his people always live there, and that the place belongs to him, though it was apparently deserted when Commander Kemp recently visited the Khor in His Majesty's ship "Sphinx." Mubarak has, in accordance with my advice, occupied the place, and it seems improbable that the Turks will advance in this direction if they find the place already occupied. The Sheikh's claim to this place, and also to Subbiya, independently of his relations with Turkey, may, perhaps, be not much stronger than his claims to Um Kasr and Bubiyan, but their occupation by the Turks would undoubtedly cause him great anxiety, and I am of opinion that his claims to them should be upheld. It must be remembered that Mubarak has, in deference to the advice of the naval authorities, promised not to add to the complications of the situation by offering any active opposition to the Turkish advance, and that, otherwise, the Turkish posts at Um Kasr and Bubiyan might not have been left unmolested. This fact may, perhaps, enable His Majesty's Government to warn the Porte, while there is yet time, that the Koweit shore of the Khor Subbiya must not be encroached upon.

No. 134.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April 24.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 23, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated 23rd instant, from the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, respecting affairs in the Persian Gulf.

A copy has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Trincomalee, April 23, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, 22nd April:—

"Sheikh reports thirty Turkish troops from Alkatif attempted occupation of his island in Duhatmus-al-Amiya, 65 miles north of Alkatif, but were not allowed to land. He requests stoppage of these [group undecypherable] encroachments. Indian Government informed."

No. 135.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated 1st May, relative to the attempted occupation by the Turks of an island north of Al Katif.

India Office, May 3, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Lord G. Hamilton to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 1, 1902.

WHO was the Sheikh opposing attempted occupation by Turks of island north of El Katif referred to by Naval Commander-in-chief in his telegram of 23rd April? Have you any observations on the point?

No. 136.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 5.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, March 31, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 33 of to-day, I have the honour to report that I learn from a source I believe to be reliable, that during the month of February the Sheikh of Koweit offered to Mustafa Nouri Pasha, the Vali of Bussorah, a large sum (stated to be £T. 10,000) if he would make favourable representations on his (the Sheikh's) behalf at Constantinople and put a stop to the encroachments on Koweit territory and generally reconcile him with the Sultan. This offer was transmitted, whether verbally or by letter I do not know, through Mahmoud Bey, a Turkish officer who happened to be on business at Koweit. The Vali, who is new to civil administration, appears to have declined the offer, on the ground that he has no need of the money; but he suggested that the sum might be made a present to the Treasury. This hint has not been acted on, but some amicable correspondence has ensued between the Sheikh and the Vali.

The former wrote that he was the Sultan's slave, whereupon the latter inquired rather pertinently why then had he taken up with the British. Mubarek then explained that he was forced to get help from some quarter or other against Ibn Raschid, and since the Turks refused it, he had to apply to the British. This, however, was in mere self preservation, and did not imply any hostility to the Sultan. The Commander of the Russian man-of-war "Varyag," too, he said, had offered him any military assistance of which he might stand in need.

The correspondence, I believe, still continues, and whether the Vali is taken in by

Mubarek's protestations or not, he certainly speaks of him more indulgently than before.

The payment of Abdurrahman-bin-Feysal's pension, which had fallen into arrears, had been resumed. As he is an ally of Mubarek and the avowed enemy of Ibn Raschid, this may not be without significance.

My Russian colleague holds frequent consultations with the Vali on the subject of Koweit, but I have been unable to learn the purport of their conversation beyond the fact that they continually mention the word "Koweit."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 137.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 9.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 17th April, relative to affairs in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, May 8, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, March 26, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the capture of Riadh by Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-ibn-Saood, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a despatch addressed by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to the Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that the Envoy sent by the Amir of Nejd to ask for assistance from the Turks was still at Bussorah, and had not yet received a final answer.

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor, No. 12, Confidential, March 22, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 137.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, March 31, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 7th March, 1902, regarding Saad-al-Hazemi, the Commissary of the Amir of Nejd, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter, dated the 22nd instant, from the Assistant Political Agent, Bahrein, reporting certain information in connection with the movements of Turkish troops in Katr and El Hassa.

Inclosure 4 in No. 137.

Mr. Gaskin to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

Bahrein, March 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter, dated the 7th March, 1902, and to report that the Turkish corvette "Zuhaf" reached Ras Tanura on Monday, the 10th instant.

Authentic information has been received that the vessel has brought about 350 Turkish infantry and two small guns from Bussorah. The troops and guns were landed at Anich, a dilapidated fort about 2 miles south of Katif. 100 of the infantry have been sent to form a garrison at Ojair, and the two guns were dispatched to El Hassa.

Muhammad-bin-Abdul Wahab Pasha, who accompanied Saad-al-Hazemi to El Hassa, returned to Bahrein on the 9th instant. He called at the Agency subsequent to his return, and amongst other information I learnt from him that Yakub Beg, the ex-Kaimakam of Katif, wrote to the Government, as far back as December, regarding the advisability of having a small guard at either of the Islands of Musalamiya or Janna some 68 miles to the north of Katif, and the Mutessarif of El Hassa, has been instructed by the Minister of the Interior through the Vali of Bussorah, to carry out the suggestion and arrange for a guard of twenty-five soldiers there. These two islands are small, about a square mile each, and are situated in a shallow bay and connected by fords with the mainland. They are inhabited by the Amair tribe, and in recent years have become important owing to the nomad tribes in Aden and adjacent territory, making them a market for the sale of clarified butter and other produce. Recently a fight took place between two factions of the Amairs and some blood was shed on each side. This occurrence will afford the Turks sufficient excuse for placing a guard in the islands.

Sheikh Muhammad also stated that the reinforcements made to the Katif and Ojair garrisons are due to repeated petitions submitted by the residents of Katif to the Porte, asking for an increase in the garrisons as a safeguard against Bedouin incursions, and to the Turks fearing His Majesty's Government entertain sinister designs against their territories in those regions. He confirms the information mentioned in the fifth paragraph of my Report, dated the 23rd February, relative to the duties of Saad-al-Hazemi at El Hassa.

No. 138.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 12th May, relative to the occupation of Musalamiya Island by the Turks.

India Office, May 12, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, May 10, 1902.

YOUR telegram of 1st May: Musalamiya Island. See Kemball's letter 31st March inclosed in Secretary's letter 17th April.

It is not clear who opposed landing of Turks; probably local tribesmen if Sheikh's story of opposition is true. Sheikh referred to is Mubarak, of Koweit, who claims island on ground of allegiance due to him by local Sheikhs.

Kemball considers that island is clearly within the sphere of Turkish influence, and that we cannot support Mubarak's claim.

I concur.

No. 139.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 28th April, relative to the proposal that the postal service may be extended to Koweit.

India Office, May 15, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, November 27, 1901.

Sir, I HAVE the honour to report that His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah has forwarded to me for disposal a letter received by Mr. Lyle, agent of the British India Steam Navigation Company at Bussorah, from Sheikh Mubarek, of Koweit, asking that the postal service may be extended to Koweit.

Apart from the question whether the local receipts would be sufficient to cover the expenses of a post-office at Koweit, I am doubtful if the measure would be considered advisable in view of the position of His Majesty's Government with regard to Koweit. At present, I understand that the British India Steam Navigation Company have decided to maintain a fortnightly service between Bombay and Koweit; but it appears to be uncertain whether they intend to do so permanently.

Under the circumstances, I propose to reply to Sheikh Mubarek that the present time is not opportune for the consideration of the question of the establishment of a post-office at Koweit; but, before I do so, I think it advisable to ascertain the views of the Government of India on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Sir,

Fort William, January 20, 1902.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 27th November, 1901, regarding the wish of Sheikh Mubarek that a post-office may be opened at Koweit.

2. The Government of India would not be unwilling to extend the postal service to Koweit. The difficulty at present is to find a proper *locus standi* for a post-office at that port. The post-offices hitherto maintained by the Indian Government in the Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia are not separate offices. They depend upon the political and Consular authorities, and the Postmasters, even if paid entirely by the Postal Department, are usually borne on the political or Consular establishments. If a native agent were appointed to Koweit, it would be simple to give him an extra allowance for conducting the business of the post-office, for which there will be a stronger case when Koweit is, once a fortnight, made a regular port of call by the British India steamers on their downward journey. But it is considered that the native agent should come first and the post-office afterwards.

3. I am to ask you to consider this suggestion, and to favour the Government of India with your opinion upon it. It is considered that it would be useful, and probably

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agreeable, to the Sheikh that we should have a native agent at Koweit, and I am to inquire whether, if such appointment were made, a suitable man can be found for it, and what, in your judgment, would be a reasonable rate of pay to give him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. BARNES,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Inclosure 3 in No. 139.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, March 1, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 20th January, on the subject of the establishment of a British post-office at Koweit.

The suggested appointment of a native agent at Koweit has, in my opinion, much to recommend it, and I could, I believe, find a suitable man for the post. It will be advisable, if the post is created, that the agent should not be allowed to indulge in trade, and a salary of 200 rupees a month should, I think, be paid to him, exclusive of the allowance for conducting the work of the post-office when it is opened. Before, however, the matter of appointing an agent at Koweit is definitely decided, I think it as well to submit the following points for the consideration of the Government of India:—

In accordance with the agreement entered into with the Chief of Koweit, in January 1899, the reception by him of an agent or representative of a foreign Power, cannot be permitted without the consent of the British Government. It is, therefore, a matter for the consideration of the Government of India whether the appointment by us of a regular agent might not at the present time be found to be inconvenient. So long as we have no agent at Koweit we can object to the presence of the agent of any other Power at the place as being a breach of the *status quo* which we have declared our intention to maintain; but if we appoint an agent, and at the same time refuse to admit the agents of other Powers, might it not be said that we ourselves were disturbing the *status quo*?

It is probable that this point has not escaped the notice of the Government of India, and it is not considered to be a valid objection to the appointment of an agent by us.

Further, it has to be considered that the fortnightly service of the British India Steam Navigation Company to Koweit has not yet been instituted. Owing to the disturbed state of the Nejd and Shammar country, and the immediate environs of Koweit, the trade of the port of Koweit is not of sufficient importance to justify the Company in maintaining a regular service with the place. In any case, therefore, it may be advisable to defer the appointment of the agent until the present crisis is over and a regular steamer service instituted.

It seems to me, therefore, that in consideration of all the circumstances it will be advisable to keep the question in abeyance for the present. I have not thought it advisable to ascertain the views of Sheikh Mubarek on the subject. It is probable, as the Government of India say, that the appointment of a native agent would be agreeable to him. He would perhaps look on it as a further step towards the protectorate which he desires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 139.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Sir,

Simla, April 5, 1902.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 1st March last, regarding the proposal to appoint a native agent, and to establish a British post-office at Koweit.

2. The matter will be reconsidered when a regular steamer service is opened with Koweit, and I am to request that if you see no objection, the Sheikh may be informed accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. WOOD,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 140.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 65.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, May 30, 1902.

KOWEIT. His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs as follows:—

"No. 40 of 29th May.

"In accordance with orders received from Constantinople, Sheikh Mubarek's Agent in Bussorah was arrested yesterday on the pretext that a prohibited Arabic newspaper, published in London, is received by him and forwarded to his master. His papers were seized, but I believe no copy of the paper was found in his house, but only a letter from the Sheikh, asking him to send the subscription.

"It is said that the partisans of the Emir of Nejd here sent the information, which led to the arrest, to Constantinople."

No. 141.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 260.)

My Lord,

Pera, June 3, 1902.

ON the 30th ultimo I repeated to your Lordship a telegram from Mr. Consul Wratislaw reporting the arrest of the Bussorah agent of the Sheikh of Koweit on the pretext that he had received and forwarded to the Sheikh copies of a prohibited Arab newspaper published in London.

I have now received a further telegram from Mr. Wratislaw informing me that the Sheikh arrived at the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab on the 30th ultimo in connection, as Mr. Wratislaw believes, with a piratical attack in that neighbourhood on a Koweit vessel. He has telegraphed to the Vali of Bussorah demanding the reason of his agent's arrest, and the Vali has replied that it is in consequence of an Imperial Irade. The agent was to be examined yesterday.

Mr. Wratislaw adds that in response to a telegram from the Sheikh of Dora expressing his apprehension of an attack from Mubarek, the Vali has sent a force of fifty men for his protection.

In speaking to the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday regarding the arrest of Mubarek's agent, I stated that the pretext seemed so frivolous that it could not fail to give rise to the assumption that it was only intended as a means of annoying the Sheikh and punishing him for his attitude towards His Majesty's Government.

Tewfik Pasha denied all knowledge of the matter, but he took note of my remarks and promised to inquire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 142.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 68.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, June 11, 1902.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Consul Wratislaw, No. 43, of yesterday:—

"Sheikh's Agent is still in strict custody, and Mubarak has applied to me, through His Majesty's Resident at Bushire, for permission to apply direct to the

Sultan on his behalf. Among the papers seized belonging to the Agent were the title-deeds of the Sheikh, who complains that the Vali declines to restore them. The Sheikh returns from Mohammerah to-day to Koweit."

It seems undesirable that the Sheikh should be allowed to appeal to the Sultan directly, and, with your Lordship's approval, I shall ask the Porte to have his title-deeds returned to the Sheikh.

No. 143.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 77.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 11, 1902.

KOWEIT: I have received your telegram No. 68 of to-day's date.

I approve the request which you propose to make to the Turkish Government.

No. 144.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 201.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 18, 1902.

THE Turkish Ambassador told me to-day that the Turkish Government had learnt that a vessel belonging to the Sheikh of Koweit had lately been plundered by Persian pirates. Upon this the Sheikh had addressed himself to the British Consul at Bushire, who had telegraphed to the Officer Commanding a British ship which was in the neighbourhood at the time, saying that if the Sheikh desired to obtain redress he should appeal to the British Consul at Bushire, and then go to Mohammerah, and at that place demand the surrender of the pirates through the British Consul.

I told his Excellency that I would inquire into the facts, but that we had always taken a leading part in putting down piracy in the Persian Gulf, and that it seemed to me, therefore, not unnatural that our Representatives in those regions should be appealed to in such cases.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 145.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 22nd May, relative to British gunboats in the Persian Gulf.

A copy has been sent to the Admiralty.

India Office, June 20, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 145.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Shiraz, May 13, 1902.

SENIOR Naval Officer proposes to suggest to Admiral that one gunboat in the Gulf will suffice during the summer. Affairs of Koweit appear to be quiet, and I see no objection. Do you concur?

Inclosure 2 in No. 145.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, May 20, 1902.

YOUR telegram 13th. No objection at present to retaining only one gunboat in Gulf during summer.

No. 146.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 282. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 17, 1902.

A LETTER in Arabic from the Emir of Nejd to the Turkish Grand Vizier, of which I have the honour to transmit the inclosed translation, has been communicated to me in confidence. It accuses the English of seeking to establish themselves, with the aid of the Sheikh of Koweit, in portions of Arabia which dominate the Turkish possessions El Hasa and Katif, and warns Turkey against the consequences of this British intrigue.

The letter is of some interest as showing one of the sources from which the Sultan's suspicions regarding the policy of England in Arabia and the Persian Gulf are fed. Some of Ibn Rashid's men arrived here quite lately, and are now the guests of His Imperial Majesty. They were probably the bearers of the letter to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Emir of Nejd to the Turkish Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)

AFTER compliments and prayers for the Sultan's welfare:

Your Highness is aware of the matter, of the basis of which we have apprised you, nor does it escape you what has occurred through the intrigue of the scoundrel Moubarek-es-Sabah with the British Government, and the descent of the latter in Koweit; and you know that Koweit is an important point, the key of Irak, and even of the Jeziret-ul-Arab, and its consequences may be serious for the Moslem nation, for they have carried out their designs and acquired importance; for many matters of theirs have become plain, which show their intention of establishing themselves in those parts of the coast which dominate El Hasa and Katif, and coming into close relations with the Arabs by means of Moubarek and Ibn Saoud, and I have warned the Imperial Government that this is a matter which may have serious consequences, and requires attention. You know how this matter began through Mohsin Pasha being deceived. We have not ceased to notify it, fearing the consequences. I venture to bring this to your knowledge, knowing that you are a safe counsellor of the Empire and nation, for the information of His Majesty. May the Almighty preserve him and assist him against the nations of the unbelievers, and assist us with his aid and your Highness with good counsels. Praying that your Highness may be mindful of us.

We are your friend,

(Signed) ABDUL AZIZ-ER-RESHID,

Emir of Nejd.

21 Zilkade, 1319 = March, 1902.

No. 147.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 23.)(No. 286.)
My Lord,*Therapia, June 18, 1902.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 77 of the 11th instant, I requested the Ottoman Foreign Minister to cause immediate orders to be sent to the Vali of Bussorah to restore to the Sheikh of Koweit the title-deeds of his property, which are stated to have been seized with other papers found in possession of the Sheikh's agent. Tewfik Pasha agreed that the retention of the title-deeds would be quite unjustifiable if the facts were as stated. He wrote at once to the Grand Vizier in the sense of my request, and promised me yesterday to follow up his letter by speaking himself to His Highness to-day, and urging him to take immediate action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 148.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 24.)

WITH reference to Foreign Office letter of the 21st June, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 5th June, relative to the plundering of a buggalow in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, June 23, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Shiraz, June 1, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram received from clerk in charge, Fao, dated 31st May:—

"Sheikh Mubarak, who has been on opposite side of river for last four days, with fleet of seven boats reported to contain 500 armed Arabs, has sent word verbally, through his agent, to me to inform Resident that he has so far been unable to do anything regarding buggalow containing 80,000 krans which was looted. He has received no reply from Sheikh, Mohammerah, to whom he has telegraphed through Agent at Bussorah, and requested reply to this message through me."

I have told clerk to tell Mubarak that I advise him to return home and submit report on the piracy in question, of which I have not as yet received information.

Clerk in later message informs me that piracy took place about seven days ago near third buoy.

No. 149.

*Foreign Office to India Office.**Foreign Office, June 24, 1902.*

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* relative to a suggestion stated to have been made by the British Resident at Bushire that the Sheikh of Koweit should apply for his assistance to obtain redress for the plundering of Koweit vessels by Persian pirates.

* No. 144.

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I am to suggest, for Lord G. Hamilton's consideration, that a copy of the despatch might be transmitted to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball for his observations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 150.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 26.)

Sir,

India Office, June 25, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose a copy of a telegram from the Governor-General of India, dated the 16th instant, with reference to an appeal which the Sheikh of Koweit proposes to address to the Sultan with regard to the arrest of his Agent at Bussorah.

Lord George Hamilton would be glad to be favoured with an expression of Lord Lansdowne's wishes as to the nature of the reply to be given by Colonel Kemball to the Sheikh.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

June 16, 1902.

CONSUL at Bussorah reports arrest at Bussorah of the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit on the 28th May, and the seizure of his papers on the ground that a prohibited Arabic newspaper published in England is received and forwarded by him. On Mubarek demanding to know the reason, he was informed by the Vali that the reason was the Sultan's order. Complaint is made by Mubarek that the return of title deeds seized amongst the Agent's papers has been refused by the Vali; and he asks Kemball to permit him to address the Sultan by telegraph on behalf of the Agent. What reply should Kemball give to the Sheikh?

No. 151.

*Foreign Office to India Office.**Foreign Office, June 27, 1902.*

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 25th instant, transmitting a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India relative to the arrest of the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit at Bussorah, and the seizure of the title-deeds of the Sheikh's property.

I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* reporting that he had made representations to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to the seizure of the title-deeds, and that Tewfik Pasha agreed that, if the facts were as stated, the retention of the papers would be unjustifiable, and promised to urge the Grand Vizier to order their restoration to the Sheikh.

I am to suggest, for Lord G. Hamilton's consideration, that the Resident at Bushire should be authorized to inform Sheikh Mubarek of Tewfik Pasha's language to Mr. de Bunsen.

Lord Lansdowne sees no objection, however, to the Sheikh addressing the Sultan direct if he desires to do so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* No. 147.

No. 152.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 30.)

(No. 25.)

Sir,

Bussorah, May 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 18th instant between 100 and 200 people from Zubeir went out armed into the desert in the direction of Sefwan. They were led by Khalid El Own, Ibn Reschid's chief supporter in Zubeir, who gave out that the object of their excursion was to recover some Zubeir sheep which were said to have been carried off by Bedouins. They returned next day with several hundred sheep, but the general opinion was that these should be regarded as an addition to their stock rather than as recovered property, and yesterday Mubarek's agent, Abdul Aziz, brought me an unsealed letter to read from the Sheikh to the Vali complaining that Khalid El Own and his crew, incited by Yussif el Ibrahim had attacked the shepherds pasturing Koweit sheep near Sefwan and had carried off 860 head, and demanding redress. This letter Abdul Aziz said he had orders to show me before delivering it, and he added that he had a private communication from the Sheikh to the effect that he intended to exact reprisals himself unless the Turks gave him satisfaction. The latter seem to have been cognizant of Khalid El Own's proceedings, as 200 cavalry were sent towards Sefwan at the same time, perhaps to cover his operations.

There are now only sixty men in garrison at Sefwan and Umkasr, and ten (belonging to the "Istikyamat Alai") on Bubian Island. All three places are most undesirable residences in summer, and as few men as possible will be kept there.

I am informed that Ibn Reschid is at Shegra, seven days from Hail. He was advised that it would produce a bad impression on his own people if he returned to his capital before ejecting his enemies from Riyadh.

Abdulrahman-bin-Feysal-bin-Saoud is reported to have left Koweit to join his son Abdul Aziz at Riyadh.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 153.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 5th June, relative to the arrest at Bussorah of the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit.

India Office, July 5, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

Consul Wratislaw to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Bussorah, May 29, 1902.

YESTERDAY, by order from Constantinople, the Bussorah Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit was arrested here, and his papers seized. Pretext is that he receives and forwards to the Sheikh a prohibited Arabic newspaper published in London. I believe no copy of newspaper was found in his house, only a manuscript from the Sheikh, asking him to forward subscription. I am informed that Agent was denounced to Constantinople by the Amir's people here.

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Consul Wratislaw to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Bussorah, June 2, 1902.

SHEIKH of Koweit, who arrived mouth of Shashih three days ago, has telegraphed to Wali, demanding reason of arrest of his Agent. Wali replied Imperial Irade. Sheikh, Dora, telegraphed to Wali, expressing fear of an attack by the Sheikh of Koweit, and the Wali sent yesterday fifty soldiers for protection. Sheikh of Koweit's visit is, I believe, connected with piracy on a Koweit vessel at the bar of the Shashih. Sheikh's agent is to be examined on 2nd June.

No. 154.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 1st July, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, July 8, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

July 1, 1902.

SEIZURE of Sheikh of Koweit's documents (see your telegram of 16th June). In reply to representations made by British Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, Tewfik Pasha promised that if facts were as stated, the Grand Vizier would be urged to order restitution of title-deeds to Sheikh. Please instruct Resident of Bushire to communicate this information to the Sheikh.

If the Sheikh wishes to address the Sultan direct, Foreign Office have no objection.

No. 155.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a despatch to the Government of India, No. 26, Secret, and enclosures, relative to the plunder of a Koweit vessel by Persian pirates.

India Office, 9th July, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, July 4, 1902.

I FORWARD herewith copies of a letter from the Foreign Office, dated the 24th June, and enclosure, relative to a representation made by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court to Lord Lansdowne relative to the appeal made by the Sheikh of Koweit to the British Consular authorities for redress in regard to the plundering of Koweit vessels by Persian pirates.

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2. I request that I may be furnished with the observations of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf upon the statements of the Turkish Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Foreign Office to India Office, June 24, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 155.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen, June 18, 1902.

[Already printed.]

No. 156.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 14.)

(No. 28.)

Sir,

Bussorah, June 9, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 27th May, I have the honour to report that letters have been received here from Ibn Reschid to the effect that he has been compelled to enter Hayel in order to transact business connected with the return of pilgrims from Mecca.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 157.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office July 14.)

(No. 29. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, June 13, 1902.

IN my telegram No. 40 of the 29th May I had the honour to report to your Excellency the arrest of Abdul Aziz, the Sheikh of Koweit's Agent at Bussorah. He had been denounced to the Palace as a subscriber to the "Khilafat" newspaper, of London, it is supposed by Ibn Reschid's partisans here, and orders were sent to the Vali to have him arrested and all his papers seized. The Agent's brother was able to make away with a copy of the "Khilafat," which was actually in his house, but sufficient correspondence was found to leave no doubt that Abdul Aziz was actually a subscriber to the paper on behalf of the Sheikh of Koweit, to whom he forwarded it on arrival. He has been examined by a Special Commission, which has decided that he should stand his trial on a charge of felony ("jinayet"), and he is now confined in the inner prison with the common criminals, pending further orders from Constantinople. Some of the leading Arabs of the town approached the Vali with a petition that he might be better lodged and treated with more consideration before trial, but Mustafa Nouri Pasha told them to mind their own business, as this was a matter concerning the Sultan, and it was dangerous to interfere.

Sheikh Mubarek arrived in the river with three sailing vessels the day after his Agent's arrest, in connection with a piracy committed by Persians on a Koweit ship. On hearing what had happened he at once wrote to the Vali to inquire the reason for his action, and was told in reply that Abdul Aziz was arrested, in conformity with an Imperial Iradé. On arriving at Mohammerah, where he stayed some days with Sheikh Khazel, Mubarek requested Mr. McDouall to ask me to inform the Resident at Bushire by telegraph that he wished to make a direct appeal to the Sultan on behalf

of his Agent, and to ask permission for him to do so. I did as requested, but have not heard the result.

Mubarek complains that, amongst other papers seized at the house of Abdul Aziz, were the title-deeds of his (the Sheikh's) property in Turkey, which have not been returned to him. Some papers also were torn up by order of the Vali, and not included in the dossier of the case, and it is presumed that they must have cast reflections on the honesty of the Vali or Mushir, or of both.

As soon as I learned the nature of the charge against Abdul Aziz I directed the British-Indian Postmaster to submit to me before delivery all correspondence addressed to the Sheikh or his Agent. Up to now I have impounded two copies of the "Khilafat" addressed to the Sheikh, as well as one for the "British Legation, Koweit." In accordance with the instructions contained in Mr. de Bunsen's telegram of the 12th (? 11th) June, I have returned them to the office at Paddington where they were posted.

I have received no instructions to regard the "Khilafat" or any other paper as prohibited, and should be grateful for a list of periodicals which are not to be distributed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Annex.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

My dear Sir N. O'Connor.

Bussorah, June 13, 1902.

I AM very sorry for this "contretemps" of Abdul Aziz' arrest, but I do not see how I could have averted it. I had never even heard the name of the "Khilafat" newspaper till the man was arrested. Perhaps the list of prohibited papers is sent round to British post-offices in Turkey, and Bussorah, being in British India, is omitted. I have told the Postmaster to bring me up all native newspapers arriving by next mail, as I hear there are quite a number of disloyal subscribers to the "Khilafat" in this town.

The Vali's Dragoman, who is always keen to find a chance of picking up a little commission (pecuniary), came to me this week and said that Yussuf-el-Ibrahim was anxious to settle his dispute with Mubarek, and could it not be done in a friendly manner. Yussuf, he said, had no personal hostility to the Sheikh. He really did not mind about the late Sheikh's murder, who had not married Yussuf's sister, as generally supposed, but only his first-cousin. It was all a question of money. When Mubarek became Sheikh he thought he would find several laks in the Treasury, whereas there were only 16,000 rupees. He at once rushed to the conclusion that Yussuf, whose Bombay house did all the Koweit business, had appropriated the money, which was quite a mistake, as he might have seen from the accounts regularly sent in. Anyhow, Mubarek laid hands on all Yussuf's property within reach, and collected the debts owing to him at Koweit.

I replied that I thought it very desirable that these two fine fellows should become friends again, but that this was not the first time I had received indirect overtures from Yussuf, which he had carried no further, and I must have something more definite to go on before I moved. Khalil, the Dragoman, said he would speak again to Yussuf.

I hear from elsewhere that Yussuf has taken fright at Mubarek's visit to Sheikh Khazel, which he believes was to arrange for his own assassination, and that this is why he wants to come to terms. There is no doubt that Mubarek would like to put him out of the way, and if the Sheikh of Mohammerah is willing to connive by giving shelter to the assassin, it would be an easy enough job. A nigger in these parts can be hired for a very small sum to do murder, provided there is a fair chance of escape afterwards.

I do not think Mubarek is in a position to pay up to Yussuf, even if he were willing to do so. His expenses lately have been enormous, and Yussuf's claims are large.

Truly your Excellency's,
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 158.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 336.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 17, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reports by telegram under yesterday's date that the Sheikh of Koweit has written to him complaining that his Agent is being persecuted by the Turkish authorities. The Sheikh attributes this to spite on account of his having accepted British protection, and asks Mr. Wratislaw to intervene on his Agent's behalf. He further requests intervention to obtain redress for the raiding of his sheep, reported in Mr. Wratislaw's despatch No. 25 of the 27th May last, which has reached me through your Lordship's Department. The Sheikh has received no reply to the letter which, as reported in that despatch, he had addressed to the Vali on the subject.

In Mr. Wratislaw's opinion no local representations would have any chance of success in either of these matters.

With regard to the raiding of Koweit sheep near Sefwan, Mr. Wratislaw thinks that it would be difficult to ascertain with any certainty the real circumstances of the incident. It is not even proved that the Turks were cognizant of the raid, and I should be disposed to instruct Mr. Wratislaw to inform the Sheikh that it will be impossible to protect him against raids in that region.

As regards the treatment of the Sheikh's Agent I am not aware of the nature of the alleged persecution or whether the Agent is still under arrest. I have telegraphed to Mr. Wratislaw for information on these points and when I receive his reply I shall have the honour to communicate further with your Lordship.

I should state that in reply to my request for the restitution of the Sheikh's title-deeds (see my telegram No. 68 of the 11th ultimo), I was informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that of the papers found in the Agent's possession all those which were not of a seditious character had been restored. I at once inquired of Mr. Wratislaw whether the title-deeds were amongst the returned documents but have not yet received any answer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 159.

Admiralty to Foreign Office —(Received July 22.)

Sir,

Admiralty, July 19, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward to you, herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter, dated the 27th May last, from the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf Division of the East Indies Station, reporting on the political situation in Nejd.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

Sir,

"Lapwing," at Bushire, May 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward you the following Report on the present situation in Nejd with a short summary of the events which have led up to it. I venture to do this as all its western border is contiguous to Nejd and the condition of affairs in the latter country may seriously affect the political situation in the former.

Feyzul-bin-Turki-bin-Said, former Emir of Nejd, was in the direct line of the Wahabi Emirs. He died, leaving three sons—the elder, Abdullah-bin-Said, becoming Emir. A quarrel soon arose between the new Emir and one of his brothers, and some fighting took place. During these internal disturbances Mahomet-bin-Rashid, Sheikh of Hail, who formerly owed some sort of allegiance to the Emir of Nejd, revolted, attacked, and, in the end, obtained supreme power in Nejd.

No. 157*.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 334.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 16, 1902.

IT is officially announced in yesterday's "Gazette" that the Order of the Iftikhar in brilliants has been conferred on Abdul Aziz-er-Reshid, Emir of the Nejd, in reward for the loyalty and devotion displayed by him towards the Sultan.

I should mention that minor orders have also recently been given to various dependents of the Emir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Mahomet-bin-Rashid died about 1899, and Abdul Azis-bin-Rashid, his cousin, succeeded him. He has become a protégé of the Turks and has for some time been menacing Koweit.

Abdul Rahmon-bin-Saïd, the third and only living son of Feyzul-bin-Saïd, has been living at Koweit for some time. He is a friend of Sheikh Moubarak, and has been receiving a sort of pension from Bussorah on condition he remained quietly at Koweit, but payment of this was stopped at the beginning of this year.

About a year ago Abdul Azis-bin-Saïd, son of Abdul Rahmon, went south, and, finding that the Sheikh of Kharj and certain other Sheikhs were willing to assist him, collected a force, and at the beginning of this year captured Riyadh. As far as I can gather he has now gained possession of a large portion of the surrounding country, in fact, all the southern half of Nejd, including Mangoohah, Derayeh, Kharj, Harik, and the Yemamah country.

Kasim and most of the Western country, including Bureidah, Shakra, Jelajel, as well as Hail, are still in the hands of Bin Rashid; but, according to all accounts, the Sheikhs and people of these countries are very dissatisfied with his rule, and are only waiting for a favourable opportunity to go over to Bin Saïd.

A great number of the better class Wahabis and others of Nejd have left the country during Bin Rashid's supremacy and have been living at Bussorah and other places. A portion of these, as well as the Sheikhs of Ajmon and Al Murrah (a large tribe who live in the Ahsa, or Hasa, country), with large followings, have attached themselves to Abdul Rahmon, who left Koweit on the 13th instant to join his son, Abdul Azis in Riyadh.

Bin Rashid has been in Kasim for the last month or two; but, according to the latest news, he went over to the west of Nejd about a fortnight ago to punish a tribe called the Beni Abdulah. On this expedition he has met with little success, losing 30 or 40 of his men killed and 160 horses, and he has now retired to Hail.

At the end of last December the Russian Consul from Bushire went over to Koweit in the "Varyag" and saw Abdul Rahmon-bin-Saïd. The Consul offered him Russian assistance and protection, and said that if Abdul Rahmon wrote to him asking for assistance to regain his country the Russian Government would give it. Sheikh Moubarak apparently dissuaded him from doing this, and Abdul Rahmon has now written to the Political Resident at Bushire asking for British protection. He states that he does not want any assistance in regaining his country, and is apparently quite confident in his ability to effect this himself.

The reason that Rahmon wishes the British Government to watch his interests, apparently, is that he fears complications with the Turks. I may add that there has been a rumour current for some time that the Turks have offered Bin Rashid assistance in his operations; but I am given to understand that no movements can take place during the summer months owing to the scarcity of water.

During April last a Russian, who styled himself a geologist, stayed at Koweit for about a week; but I could not discover that he made any diplomatic overtures to either Abdul Rahmon or Sheikh Moubarak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. ARMSTRONG.

No. 160.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 339.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 22, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 336 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to state that I learn from a telegram just received from Mr. Wratislaw that the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit is still in prison, and treated with rigour. A sealed bag, however, containing certain papers, has been returned to the Agent's house, and Mr. Wratislaw believes the Sheikh's title-deeds have also been returned, but on this point he is awaiting a communication from the Sheikh.

I hesitate to make a request for the release of the Agent, who was imprisoned, like so many others throughout the Empire, for allowing seditious papers to pass through his hands; and I am doubtful whether such a demand would be attended with success.

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I can, however, if your Lordship thinks fit, inform the Sublime Porte that His Majesty's Government regards the Agent's continued detention as an act of persecution directed against a Sheikh with whom they stand in friendly relations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 161.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 28, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reporting that a raid had been made on the sheep of the Sheikh of Koweit near Sefwan,* together with a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject.†

The Sheikh has appealed to Mr. Wratislaw for his intervention with the Turkish authorities, but, under the circumstances, Mr. de Bunsen proposes to instruct that officer to inform the Sheikh that it will be impossible to protect him from raids in the region of Sefwan.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Lord George Hamilton should concur, to approve the suggestion of Mr. de Bunsen as to the instructions which should be sent to Mr. Wratislaw on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 162.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject of the arrest of the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit at Bussorah.‡

It will be observed that Mr. de Bunsen does not consider that a demand for the release of the Agent would be attended with success, but he proposes to inform the Sublime Porte that His Majesty's Government regard the Agent's continued detention as an act of persecution directed against a Sheikh with whom they stand in friendly relations.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Lord G. Hamilton concurs, to authorize Mr. de Bunsen to make a communication to the Porte in the sense suggested by him.

No. 163.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 1.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, July 29, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an extract from a letter dated the 30th ultimo, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Amphitrite," reporting his proceedings in the Persian Gulf.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. J. VAN SITTART NEALE.

† No. 152.

† No. 158.

‡ No. 160.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Captain Windham to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Amphitrite" at Bombay, June 30, 1902.

LEAVING Bushire on the 18th, I anchored off Koweit.

On the 19th, I landed and visited Sheikh Jabbar, the eldest son of the Sheikh of Koweit, who was away at the time. After the usual greetings the Sheikh lent us horses and, in company with Major Cox, we rode through the bazaar and outside the town, and saw the entrenchments which were dug to the south and south-west of the town to prevent a threatened attack during the past year from Bin Raschid, the Arab Ruler of Nejd, a town 600 miles to the westward of Koweit.

It is believed that Bin Raschid was invited to this act by the Turks, but the attack never reached the coast, though several fights occurred between it and Nejd.

I had not sufficient coal to allow me to visit Khor Abdullah, to the northward of Koweit which, according to the latest newspaper reports, is now said to be the projected terminus of the German railway. Unquestionably, Koweit will make an excellent terminus.

This ship anchored within 1½ miles of the town in 7 fathoms.

Anchorage bearings: Conspicuous clump of trees (marked on Chart), S. 34 E. Flagstaff at Sheikh's house (also marked on Chart), S. 28 W.

The bottom close ashore is rocky and jetties could with ease be built for vessels to lay alongside. The place is easy of approach and with a lighthouse placed on the Ras El Arz, the harbour could with facility be entered at night.

Koweit could be defended from the sea.

There is a sandy plain with practically no cover extending for some 4,000 yards behind the town, and ending in a ridge about 100 feet above sea level.

This plain was not visible from the deck of this ship owing to the town intervening, but by going up the rigging some 70 feet, the whole could be seen. This plain across which any force attacking Koweit from the land side must come, could be swept by fire of shallow draught gun-boats anchored within a few 100 yards of the beach to the westward of the town and by similar vessels anchored close in shore half way between Ras al Aguza and conspicuous clump of trees marked on the Chart.

Vessels drawing 13 feet could moor close in shore and westward of the town on a patch marked 6 fathoms, and also to the eastward of the town.

On the morning of the 20th, the Sheikh returned my visit and went round the ship. I presented him on his leaving with a silver scent sprinkler purchased from Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw, Bros., and saluted him with five guns.

No. 164.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 26th June, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, August 1, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, April 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter addressed to me by Shaikh Mubarek, of Koweit, regarding the occupation of Bubyen Safwan and Um Kasr by the Turks.

The Amayer Island, referred to by Shaikh Mubarek in this letter, is, I understand, the island in Musalameya Bay, some 70 miles north of Kateef. Its occupation by the

Turks was referred to in my diary for the week ending 14th April, 1902, entry No. 5. The Chief of Koweit claims that this island is occupied by Arabs who owe allegiance to him, but I do not think his claim can be very strong.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL,
Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Sheikh Mubarek to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

10 Moharrum, 1320 (April 19, 1902).

THE Turks are giving a good deal of trouble through the Mushir (the Commander-in-chief), and it appears that he is helping Ibn Raschid. They have stationed Ibn Raschid's men at El Hasa, Zubeir, Khamisiyah, and Samawi, and are exercising their authority over his tribes and instigating them (the tribes) against my dependents, but the tribesmen, on account of the illtreatment they receive from Ibn Raschid and the safety they have experienced from me, do not listen to them, but they find means to allure them.

The (Turkish) soldiers are still at Bubiyan, Sefwan, and Um Kasr. Ibn Raschid's man is with the soldiers at Sefwan. I have intercepted the letter which Ibn Raschid had written to the Riadh people, saying that he had stationed eight battalions troops at Sefwan, also in Hasa.

As regards Bubiyan, after thirty days, my subjects will go to Bubiyan as before to resume their fishing occupation, and similarly my tribesmen will take their flocks and cattle to Sefwan after a fortnight. If the fishermen go to Bubiyan and stay there while the soldiers are there, the soldiers will give them much trouble. Similarly as regards the tribesmen going to Sefwan.

In these days the Turks sent from Kateef thirty soldiers, accompanied by Ibn Juma, to the Amayer Island with a view to their living there, but the Amayer people did not allow them (to stay). The soldiers, therefore, returned to Katif and then went to stay with Ibn Wahab at Darien. This is the state of affairs, and the taking of action rests with you.

Inclosure 3 in No. 164.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, April 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter, with inclosures, received by me from Sheikh Mubarek, of Koweit.

The name of the Russian traveller now at Koweit is, I understand, Nicholas Bogoyarlensky, who was referred to in my diary for the week ending the 21st April last, entry No. 5. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, informs me that he is taking many photographs at Koweit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL,
Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 4 in No. 164.

Sheikh Mubarek to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(After compliments.)

10 Moharrum, 1320 (April 19, 1902).

YESTERDAY a Russian reached here. He had a letter for me from the Russian Consul at Bushire. A copy of the letter is inclosed herewith. His object was that I should find a house for him (the Russian) to live in. I did not give him any house, but have put him up in my divan (house) until his return.

I also inclose a copy of the Russian Consul's letter to which I had referred in my former letter to you.

Inclosure 5 in No. 164.

M. Ovseenko to Sheikh Mubarek.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

5 Zil Hijjah, 1319 (March 16, 1902).

FROM the time I left Koweit till now I have not forgotten the kindness you had shown to the officers of our ship when you received us at your place. I am much obliged to you. I have at present heard that you are at perfect ease so far as your enemies are concerned, and I take this opportunity of wishing you happy times. I pray God that you may be in a flourishing state.

I am in need of three or four gazelles. They should be tame and not wild. I have some gazelles, but there is no male among them. If you can find one or two male gazelles, please send them to me by a boat coming to Bushire, and let me know their price, so that I may pay it to the bearer of the animal. I hope you will not stop giving me news about yourself. Give my salaams to Sheikh Jaber and all your sons, and to Sheikh Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal.

(Signed) OVSEENKO,
Russian Consul-General, Bushire.

Inclosure 6 in No. 164.

M. Ovseenko to Sheikh Mubarek.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

12 Zil Hijjah, 1319 (March 23, 1902).

BEFORE now I have sent you a letter, which I hope has reached you. At present a doctor named Bunamuyeh (or Buguieh?) has arrived from Russia. He stayed with me, and wished to visit the Gulf ports to secure sea insects. This time he is going towards Koweit. I request that if he stands in need of assistance in his work at sea, you will ask your servants to give it him, and if he finds it necessary to stay at Koweit for four or more days, you will ask some one in Koweit to lease a house to him, and extend to him the kindness you had shown to me, and I shall be obliged. Give my salaams to Sheikh Jaber and Sheikh Abdul Rahman Feysal.

(Signed) OVSEENKO,
Russian Consul-General, Bushire.

Inclosure 7 in No. 164.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Shiraz, May 22, 1902.

I HAVE received letter from Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal-el-Saood saying he was leaving Koweit immediately for Riadh, and asking to be considered as "one of those having relations with the British Government." I am sending you copy of letter. Meanwhile, I do not propose to send any reply.

Inclosure 8 in No. 164.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, May 23, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram, dated the 22nd instant, I have the honour to forward copy of the letter addressed to me by Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal-el-Saood, which was brought over from Koweit by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," and was received in Bushire on the 12th instant.

It will be seen that Abdul Rahman asks to be considered as one of the protégés of the British Government, the Arabic words used by him being "min mahsubienkum," or "one of those having relation with you."

2. The Government of India will be aware from my previous reports of the successes which have been gained by Abdul Aziz, the son of Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal, and it would seem that Abdul Rahman now considers his son's position sufficiently assured and has decided

to give him his active support. It is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty whether the El-Saood family will succeed in their present enterprise. The general impression seems to be that the present Amir of Nejd is a different stamp of man from his predecessors, and that the fact of his having left Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman in undisputed possession of Riyadh for so long augurs well for the final success of the Wahabi dynasty. It is further generally thought that the season for warlike operations is now past, but that in the early autumn the Amir of Nejd will take the field in earnest and try to recover his lost prestige. It seems futile at present to discuss what will be the result if the Wahabis succeed in re-establishing their rule in Central Arabia, but I think there is no doubt that our attitude must be impartial, and I do not propose to send any reply to Abdul Rahman's letter. The statement made in the letter that the Russian Consul at Bushire had asked Abdul Rahman to write to him is possibly true, as I am aware that when the Russian Consul visited Koweit he had an interview with Abdul Rahman.

Inclosure 9 in No. 164.

Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal-el-Saood to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Koweit, 5th Safar, 1320 (May 14, 1902).

I HAVE no wish to look to any one but yourself because of the favours and protection you extend to all those who place themselves under your eyes. I request the eyes of your benevolent Government may be kept on me.

I beg to inform you about the Russian Consul at Bushire, who had come to the place where I am at present. He came to me and asked me to write him a letter describing the ill-treatment I have received from the Turks and the help they have given Ibn Raschid against me. I did not see fit to go to other than your Government. I request of your benevolent Government to consider me as one of their protégés. I am this day leaving for my country, Riyadh. By the grace of God the whole of my country has come into my hands. Ibn Raschid had taken charge of my country and practised tyranny, without any right, by the help of the Turkish Government and through the intrigues of their officials. Tyranny is not good, and for Governments justice and favours and not tyranny are suitable. I pray God to help me against those who have ill-treated me and to enable me to repel "zulm."

Inclosure 10 in No. 164.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Simla, June 23, 1902.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, dated the 22nd ultimo, and your letter, dated the 23rd ultimo, regarding a letter addressed to you by Abdul Abdul-bin-Feysal-el-Saood, in which he expresses a desire to be regarded as a protégé of the British Government.

The Government of India agree with your view that, pending further developments, no encouragement should be given to Abdul-bin-Feysal, and your action in abstaining from replying to his letter is approved.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. WOOD,

Under-Secretary to Government of India.

No. 165.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 3rd ultimo, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, August 1, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 165.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Bushire, June 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter which has been addressed to Sir N. O'Connor by His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, in connection with Koweit affairs.

I have, &c.

(For Political Resident in the Persian Gulf),

(Signed)

VERE HUNT, Captain.

Inclosure 2 in No. 165.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor, May 27, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 165.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Bushire, June 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a despatch addressed to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople, by His Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, regarding the movements of Ibn Raschid.

I have, &c.

(For Political Resident in the Persian Gulf),

(Signed)

VERE HUNT, Captain.

Inclosure 4 in No. 165.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 28.)

Bussorah, June 9, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 27th May, I have the honour to report that letters have been received here from Ibn Raschid to the effect that he has been compelled to enter Hayel in order to transact business connected with the return of pilgrims from Mecca.

No. 166.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 11.)

Sir,

India Office, August 8, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th July, and to state, in reply, that his Lordship concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to approve Mr. de Bunsen's suggestion as to the instructions which should be sent to Mr. Consul Wratislaw with regard to a raid upon Koweit sheep near Sefwan.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. GODLEY.

No. 167.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 252.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 14, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the Secretary of State for India your despatch No. 336 of the 17th ultimo, relative to complaints made by the Sheikh of Koweit to His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah of the proceedings of the Turkish authorities.

The instructions which you propose to send to Mr. Wratislaw in regard to the raiding of sheep belonging to Koweit near Sefwan are approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 168.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 15.)

Sir,

India Office, August 14, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st July, stating that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople does not consider that a demand for the release of the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit at Bussorah would be successful, and that he proposes to inform the Sublime Porte that His Majesty's Government regard the Agent's continued detention as an act of persecution directed against a Sheikh with whom they stand in friendly relations.

In reply, I am to say that Lord George Hamilton concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to authorize Mr. de Bunsen to make a communication to the Porte in the above sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 169.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in Government of India Foreign Secretary's letter, dated 24th July, respecting Koweit affairs.

India Office, August 16, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, June 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, translation of a letter which I have received from Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Subah of Koweit, regarding the movements of Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal-el-Saood.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Subah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(After compliments.)

7th Rabi-ul-Awal, 1320 (June 14, 1902).

ON 2nd Safer, 1320 (11th May, 1902), Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal-el-Saood left for his native country Riadh, and to join his son. He was accompanied by the leading men of the Ajman and El-Murra tribes. On reaching the (head-quarters of the) Ajman and El-Murra tribes, all men belonging to those tribes joined him, and they

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attacked the Shammar tribe, and captured many Arabs belonging to that tribe and the Dhafur tribe. He then went to his home (Riadh).

Furthermore, his son, Abdul Aziz, on the 27th May last captured many Shammar Arabs, relatives of Ibn Rashid. All Nejd people—villagers and nomads—are identifying themselves with his cause and siding with him, except the Kasims, but the latter are also disgusted of Ibn Rashid. This is the news which has reached me.

Inclosure 3 in No. 169.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, June 30, 1902.

IN continuation of this Office letter dated the 6th instant, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, translation of a letter which I have received from Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Subah, Chief of Koweit, regarding Koweit affairs.

Inclosure 4 in No. 169.

Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Subah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(After compliments.)

8th Rabi-ul-Awal, 1320 (June 15, 1902).

ON the 10th May last Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, the ruffian, collected men from Zubeir under Khaled-el-Aoon, armed with fire-arms, and sent them to attack the flocks of my tribesmen who were in Sefwan, and they lifted 860 sheep. My (other) tribesmen wanted to go to the assistance of their brethren, as they were close by; but as I had warned my tribesmen that whenever anything happened they were to refer to me, they abstained from retaliation. At this time I had written to the Wali of Bussorah on the subject, and had inclosed my letter to his Excellency in the letter I had written to my Bussorah agent, Abdul Aziz-el-Salim. I had asked my agent that, before delivering the Wali's letter, he should show it to the Consul at Bussorah, and ask him if it should be delivered or not. The agent accordingly asked the Consul, who said that the letter may be delivered to the Wali. My agent thereupon delivered the letter, but up till now no reply has come to me from the Wali in the matter, nor have I received back the plundered sheep. Whatever you think is the best.

No. 170.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 363.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 11, 1902.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 301 of 1st July, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reporting the appointment of Thalib Pasha as Mutessarif of Hassa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Consul Wratislaw to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 33.)

Sir,

Bussorah, July 3, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that according to telegrams received here from Constantinople, Seyid Thalib Pasha, the eldest son of the Nakib of Bussorah, has been appointed Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Hassa, and has already left the capital for Bagdad with a view to taking possession of his post.

Thalib Pasha was summoned to Constantinople in disgrace at the beginning of the year, to answer both for his private misdeeds, which were many, and for the insubordination of Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit, which it was considered that he might

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have done something to prevent. The influence of his backer at the Palace, Abu Hudda, and his lavish expenditure of the family funds at Constantinople have, however, enabled him to emerge triumphantly from his difficulties.

He is an able though unprincipled man, and may, perhaps, be able to cope with the difficulties of the situation at Hassa, where the Arab tribes still render all communication between the town and the coast a matter of danger.

As reported in my telegram No. 46 of the 29th ultimo, the transport "Adana" left Bussorah on the previous day with reinforcements for that district, consisting of a very weak battalion of mule cavalry, a battalion of the 11th Nishanji Regiment, four mountain guns, and a few artillerymen—in all, something over 500 men.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 171.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 366.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 11, 1902.

IN my despatch No. 339 of the 22nd July last, I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship with the substance of a telegram from Mr. Consul Wratislaw, in which he expressed the belief that the Sheikh of Koweit's title-deeds, which were amongst the papers seized at the time of his Agent's arrest, had been restored to the Sheikh.

I have now received a further telegram from Mr. Wratislaw confirming this intelligence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 172.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 256.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 19, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the Secretary of State for India your despatch No. 339 of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the arrest of the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit at Bussorah.

His Majesty's Government approve your proposal to inform the Porte that they regard the continued detention of the Agent as an act of persecution directed against a Sheikh with whom they stand in friendly relations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 173.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 377.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 26, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 334 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the Official "Gazette," announcing the bestowal of a further decoration by the Sultan upon Abdul Azia Ibn Reshid, the Emir of the Nejd.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of August 25, 1902.

ABDOUL-AZIZEL RÉCHID a été décoré de la médaille du Liakkat en or, en reconnaissance de sa fidélité et de sa loyauté envers Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Son homme de confiance, Hachman Pacha, a reçu la même médaille en argent.

No. 174.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, September 1.)

(No. 39.)

Sir,

Bussorah, July 31, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to information received here from Jebel Shomer, Ibn Reshid is making energetic preparations for attacking Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud in Riyadh as soon as weather permits. This is likely to be earlier this year than usual, as the summer heat has been much below the average, and the close season for hostilities is expected to end comparatively soon. Ibn Reshid wrote to his friends here some time back boasting that the Sultan had promised him some guns, but I do not know whether he has actually received them.

He has endeavoured to detach some of the tribes which adhered to Ibn Saoud by proclaiming that the latter is the tool of English infidels, and that it is the duty of all true Moslems to leave him, but I have not heard that this device has had any effect.

Mubarek is notoriously aiding and abetting Ibn Saoud, who could have done little without his help, and it is to be feared that Koweit may become actively involved in the hostilities which are locally regarded as inevitable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 175.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 89.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, September 6, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reports by telegram No. 56 under yesterday's date that, according to a telegram from the Mudir of Fao, an encounter had occurred on that day between the boats of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" and two pirate vessels off Fao. The "Lapwing's" boats lost one seaman killed.

Mr. Wratislaw adds that he has received no details from the Commander of the "Lapwing," who has, however, telegraphed to him about the burial of the seaman.

No. 176.

Commander-in-chief, East Indies Station, to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, September 7.)

(No. 13.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Port Louis, September 6, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram received from Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," Fao. She is leaving for Mohammerah, Bussorah:—

"I received information 3rd September to the effect that two dhows belonging to Bin Ibrahim had left to attack Koweit in conjunction with shore force. I left immediately for Koweit, arriving 11 p.m. No attack took place, but suspected dhows seen in vicinity, 4th September, and I therefore went to look out for dhows round Failahu and Bubiyan. This morning went from Khor Abdallah with armed boat to board two suspected dhows, who refused to stop. Chased them to Persian shore, when they beached and landed. We were attacked by them from the shore with very heavy

rifle fire. Floated dhows, and brought them here. Lost 1 man killed, 2 slightly wounded. Enemy lost about 6. As they had good cover on shore, and there were about 150 men, we could not attack through soft mud. What am I to do with dhows?"

I have telegraphed as follows to "Lapwing":—

"Retain captured dhows for the present, but report if claimed by Persian Government. Report fully by letter on all the circumstances connected with the attack and capture, also chase. Report direct to the Admiralty by letter, sending duplicate to Commander-in-chief, Trincomalee, as soon as possible. Report name of killed by telegram, giving official number and rating; also wounded. Duplicate report is to be sent to Admiralty."

His Majesty's ships "Cossack" and "Redbreast" are about to proceed to Koweit with the least possible delay.

No. 177.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 91.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, September 11, 1902.

THE following telegram, dated yesterday, has reached me from Mr. Consul Wratislaw this morning:—

"The Vali sent an examining Magistrate to-day to hold an informal inquiry on board His Majesty's ship 'Lapwing.' The Commander of the 'Lapwing' made a full statement and exhibited articles found on the captured dhows, principally rifles and ammunition, clothing, two new scaling-ladders, and a seal bearing the name of a man who, I was informed yesterday, belonged to the body-guard of Sheikh of Dora. There is nothing beyond this to identify anybody.

"Twelve men evidently belonging to the crews of the dhows have been arrested by the Sheikh of Mohammerah. These men have up to now obstinately refused to give any account of themselves. They appear to be wild Arabs."

No. 178.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 394.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 9, 1902.

I DULY received your Lordship's telegram No. 93, respecting the capture of some Arab dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," and I have now the honour, in continuation of my telegram No. 89 of the 6th instant, to forward the substance of two further telegrams from Mr. Wratislaw relating to the same event.

The Sublime Porte has not spoken to me on the subject, although I have no doubt they were acquainted with the circumstances when I called yesterday upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I do not propose to broach it unless instructed by your Lordship and put in possession of information which will enable me to prove that the expedition was abetted by the Turkish authorities, and took place with their knowledge and approval. We have repeatedly called the attention of the Ottoman Government to the acts of piracy committed in the Persian Gulf and Shat-el-Arab without other results than assurances that measures would be taken to secure the safety of these waters by sending Turkish gun-boats there.

The action of the officer of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," whether taken against pirates or against a filibustering expedition organized by Yusuf-el-Ibrahim against the Sheikh of Koweit, shows our determination effectually to police these parts when the Ottoman Government fail to do so, and I cannot but think it will have a severely deterrent effect for the future, both as regards piracy and attacks upon Koweit.

I can see no reason why the dhows should be returned to the Turkish authorities. I would rather suggest that they should be sold by public auction and the proceeds given to the family of the deceased British sailor and to the wounded bluejackets.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 178.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P.

September 6, 1902.

COMMANDER of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" reports capture of two armed dhows. The dhows, on his giving chase, tried to escape on the Persian side, and fired on his boats.

Inclosure 2 in No. 178.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P.

September 8, 1902.

REFERRING to my telegram of yesterday. The "Lapwing" has arrived, bringing in the two captured dhows.

The Commander gives the following details:—

Having been informed at Fao on the 3rd instant that a surprise attack on Koweit by sea had been organized by Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, he visited that place, where he learnt, in confirmation of his information, that two suspicious dhows had been seen. He thereupon anchored at the entrance of Khor Abdullah, visiting all dhows passing. On the morning of the 5th instant two suspicious dhows full of armed men were seen. They refused to stop when hailed, and threatened to fire on the "Lapwing's" boat, whereupon all boats gave chase, and finally dhows ran ashore on the Persian coast. The Arabs landed and fired on boats. One bluejacket was killed and two wounded, but the boats eventually succeeded in getting the two dhows off. Enemy's loss estimated at six from return fire of boats.

The two dhows belong, I have little doubt, to Dora, and were intended for a raid on Koweit or its neighbourhood, had the Sheikh been found unprepared.

No. 179.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 397.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 9, 1902.

YOUR Lordship will have seen, from Mr. Consul Wratislaw's despatch No. 39 of the 31st July, which reached me by last King's Messenger, that there is reason to apprehend a renewal of hostilities between Ibn Reshid and Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud.

In view of Sheikh Mubarek's attitude as described by Mr. Wratislaw in his concluding paragraph, I think it would be well to take an early opportunity to warn the Sheikh that he should abstain from encouraging any action likely to involve him in difficulties with the Imperial Government or with the Emir of Nejd.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 180.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 401.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 10, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 93 of the 8th instant, and to my despatch No. 394 of yesterday, I have the honour to transmit a paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah regarding the attitude of the Vali in connection with the recent capture of pirate dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

Mr. Wratislaw reports that the Governor has been most remiss in allowing the

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Sheikh of Koweit's enemies to organize land raids from the shelter of Turkish territory; and your Lordship will observe that Mr. Wratislaw has remonstrated with his Excellency on the subject.

I have approved Mr. Wratislaw's action in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure No. 180.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P.

September 9, 1902.

CAPTURE of dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

I had an unsatisfactory interview yesterday with Vali. His Excellency is plainly determined to do his utmost to prevent guilt being brought home to Yusuf-ben-Ibrahim, or any one for whom the Turkish Government is responsible. He maintained that it was for us to prove who the culprits were, and he would then make inquiries.

I hear that some of the pirates have been arrested by the the Sheikh of Mohammerah. It should be easy, if this is true, to ascertain who is responsible.

The Vali has been most remiss in allowing Mubarek's enemies to organize land raids from the shelter of Turkish territory.

In my interview of yesterday I spoke to him very strongly on the subject.

No. 181.

Hamid Bey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 15.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie présente ses compliments au Marquis de Lansdowne, et a l'honneur de porter à la haute connaissance de sa Seigneurie que la Sublime Porte, ayant appris que le Cheikh Youssouf Ibrahim serait soupçonné d'organiser une attaque sur Koweit, déclare que cette nouvelle est sans le moindre fondement et que, d'ailleurs, le Cheikh Mubarek est animé d'une hostilité persistante contre le Cheikh Ibrahim à cause d'une réclamation d'indemnité que celui-ci avait formulée contre lui à la suite d'une affaire de meurtre. Hamid Bey est chargé également par son Gouvernement d'informer sa Seigneurie que, d'après des rapports du Vali de Bassorah, trois bâtiments de guerre Anglais viendraient de Bombay mouiller dans les eaux de ce port et de la prier instamment de prendre les mesures nécessaires afin que les dites vaisseaux, dont la présence dans les eaux de Bassorah produirait une funeste impression sur les habitants de ces parages, n'y soient pas envoyés.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 15 Septembre, 1902.

No. 182.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 15.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 15, 1902.

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 7th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram dated this day from the Commander-in-chief, East Indies Station, relative to the capture of dhows in the Persian Gulf by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Port Louis, September 15, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 13, "Cossack" reports affair of no political importance save that the attacking party were raised and dispatched from Turkish territory. Letter follows by first mail.

No. 183.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 15, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires,* denying the report that Sheikh Yusuf Ibrahim has any intention of organizing an attack on Koweit, and requesting that if it were true that three British ships of war are about to anchor at Bussorah, instructions may be sent to prevent this measure, which, in the opinion of the Turkish Government, would have an unfortunate effect on the population.

Hamid Bey, who brought the note himself, was very anxious to obtain an assurance on the latter point. He was informed that it was scarcely probable that three vessels had been ordered to proceed to Bussorah, but that inquiry would be made.

Lord Lansdowne would be glad to receive any information which the Lords Commissioners may be able to furnish on this point, for communication to the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 184.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 18.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 17, 1902.

I LAID before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 15th instant, inclosing a copy of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires denying the intention of the Sheikh Yussuf Ibrahim to attack Koweit.

In reply to your inquiry as to the report mentioned by Hamid Bey that three of His Majesty's ships were about to anchor at Bussorah, I am commanded by their Lordships to request you will represent to the Marquess of Lansdowne that the "Sphinx" is now in the Shatt-el-Arab to aid in the suppression of piracy, and that the "Lapwing" is engaged in patrolling the river during the date season.

Further, in consequence of the recent encounter between the "Lapwing's" boats and piratical dhows, the Commander-in-chief sent the "Cossack" and the "Redbreast" to the Persian Gulf, probably on the assumption that the affray in which the "Lapwing" was engaged had a political aspect, the dhows having been reported as sent by Bin Ibrahim to attack Koweit.

Lord Lansdowne will have observed that, in his telegram No. 16 of the 15th instant, the Commander-in-chief stated that subsequently the "Cossack" reported the "affair was of no political significance, save that the attacking party was raised and dispatched from Turkish territory."

Rear-Admiral Drury did not, however, state the port from which the "Cossack" telegraphed this message, and it is possible that her Commanding Officer may have gone to the Shatt-el-Arab to confer with the Commanding Officer of the "Lapwing" before telegraphing to the Commander-in-chief.

If this assumption is correct the "Cossack" would be the third vessel in the river, and the idea may have arisen that she was going up to Bussorah.

* No. 151.

These circumstances appear to my Lords to afford the most probable explanation of the rumour to which Lord Lansdowne refers. That the Commander-in-chief would allow the "Cossack," in addition to the other two vessels, to remain in the river my Lords do not consider probable, but they will cause a telegram to be sent to Admiral Drury, should Lord Lansdowne desire it, alluding to the report in question, and asking the proposed disposition of the "Cossack" and "Redbreast."

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 185.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 18, 1902.*
WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in regard to the recent capture of two armed dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."*

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Lord G. Hamilton concurs, to approve the attitude adopted by Sir N. O'Connor in the matter, and to recommend to the Admiralty that, unless some claim to the dhows be raised by the Persian Government, in whose territory they were captured, they should be dealt with in the manner suggested by Sir N. O'Connor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 186.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 18, 1902.*
I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, relative to the report mentioned by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that three of His Majesty's ships were about to anchor at Bussorah.

Lord Lansdowne will be obliged if the Lords Commissioners would telegraph to the Commander-in-chief, East Indies Station, as suggested in your letter, alluding to the report in question and inquiring as to the proposed movements of the "Cossack" and "Redbreast."

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 187.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 19.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September 19, 1902.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decipher of a telegram dated the 18th instant, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" at Bussorah, respecting piracy in the Shat-el-Arab.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

* No. 178.

Inclosure in No. 187.

The Commander of "Lapwing" to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bussorah, September 18, 1902.

TRIAL of the pirates—fifteen prisoners caught by the Sheikh of Mohammerah. They refused to confess, though it is well known that expedition against Koweit was organized by suspected Sheikh, and left Turkish territory. There is no direct evidence yet. Wali will make no admission, and will not take any effective action unless forced. By order from Constantinople Wali has inquired from Consul reason for "Lapwing's" presence in these waters, and explanation of his movements. I gather that Turks intend contesting legality of my action.

No. 188.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1902.*
WITH reference to my letter of the 13th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* in which his Excellency expresses the opinion that in view of the apprehended renewal of hostilities between Ibn Reshid and Abdul Aziz bin Saoud, the Sheikh of Koweit should be warned to abstain from encouraging any action likely to involve him in difficulties with the Imperial Ottoman Government or with the Emir of Nejd.

I am to suggest, for the consideration of Lord George Hamilton, that telegraphic instructions should be sent to the British Resident at Bushire, to give the warning proposed by Sir N. O'Connor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 189.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 407.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 17, 1902.

I RECEIVED a message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the effect that the Vali of Bussorah had reported that His Majesty's Consul at that place had brought unsubstantiated charges against Yusuf Ibn Ibrahim of intriguing against Mubarek-es-Sabah, and that three British war-ships were on their way to Bussorah waters. The Vali had added that the presence of these ships might produce a bad impression amongst the local population, and had asked the Sublime Porte to see that they should not proceed to Bussorah.

I understand that instructions have been sent to the Ottoman Embassy in London to make representations in this sense.

Your Lordship will see from the accompanying paraphrases of telegrams from Mr. Consul Wratislaw that he is pursuing his inquiries as to the authority or persons responsible for the late filibustering expedition against Koweit, and pending the result of his investigation, I do not propose to return any answer to Tewfik Pasha's message, particularly as the Ottoman Embassy has, doubtless, already communicated with your Lordship on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

* No. 179.

Inclosure 1 in No. 189.

Consul Wratistlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 61.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, September 11, 1902.

PRIVATE information continues to reach me tending to confirm Yusuf-ben-Ibrahim's guilt, but it is all given in confidence, and no one is willing to come forward to testify officially. Neither the Vali nor any one else has suggested an alternative explanation. I have some hope that proof of his complicity may come from Mohammerah. It is very desirable in the interests of peace that guilt may be brought home to him so that he might be expelled from this country.

The "Lapwing" returns shortly from Fao, whither she has gone to meet the Senior Naval Officer.

Inclosure 2 in No. 189.

Consul Wratistlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, September 15, 1902.

I BELIEVE that the following information which has reached me regarding the abortive expedition against Koweit is reliable. It consisted of about sixty Arabs of the Sherifat tribe, and probably some local people, and was led by Khalid, nephew of the Sheikh of Koweit. They were paid by Yusuf, and started from Dora at the invitation of the suspected persons in Koweit. They had expected to find the Sheikh absent, and on finding him at Koweit and the town prepared they abandoned the enterprise.

The men arrested by the Sheikh of Mohammerah belong to the Sherifat tribe. I hear also that there are two wounded men in a village on the Turkish side.

No. 190.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 408.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 19, 1902.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship paraphrase of a further telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting an interview with the Vali regarding the question of the responsibility for the recent abortive expedition against Koweit and the presence of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" in Bussorah waters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Consul Wratistlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, September 18, 1902.

THE Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" and myself yesterday paid a visit to the Vali and requested that the result of his inquiry might be made known to us.

He said that, in spite of his great efforts, no particular result had as yet been effected by the inquiry; he awaited the communication by the Sheikh of Mohammerah of any evidence which might have been obtained from the latter's prisoners.

I suspect he was quite aware when he said this that the prisoners had as yet made no confession.

He does not deny that the fact of the disappearance of Khalid, nephew of the Sheikh of Koweit, is known to him and in general seems much less assured than before, but is practically making no efforts to bring to justice the guilty parties.

He gave me to understand that until instructions were received from Constanti-

nople to abandon the judicial inquiry and to adopt forcible and arbitrary measures, matters would continue thus.

I gather from what the Vali let drop that there is an inclination on the part of the Porte to dispute the legality of His Majesty's ship's action.

He has also inquired of me, by writing and by order of the Minister of the Interior, as to reason of the cruiser's presence in these waters, and for details of her conduct.

My reply was that she was there till further orders for the prevention of piracy.

No. 191.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 4th September, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, September 23, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, August 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter, dated the 2nd instant, which I have received from Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit, regarding a fight which his men had with some of Ibn Rashid's followers at a place called Subahiyeh, a ten-hours' journey from Koweit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Sabah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

27th Rabi-el-Thani 1320 (August 2, 1902).

I HAD my flocks and cattle in charge of my servants and tribesmen at a watering-place called Subahiyeh, ten-hours' journey from Koweit; and, with the object of lifting the flocks and cattle, Ibn Rashid had sent 250 camels and 250 men, headed by some of his relatives—viz., Kurdi-bin-Twaleh, Hamed-el-Howdeleh, and Ibn Aeesh. On the 19th Rabi-el-Thani (25th July, 1902), these men attacked my men, and a fight took place between them, with the result that the chief men of the Shummar tribe and relations of Ibn Rashid—viz., Kurdi, Hamed, Ibn Aeesh—were killed, and the others were defeated and driven away. Many men of the Shummar tribe and many camels were also killed and wounded. I am communicating this for your information.

No. 192.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 25.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd instant, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, September 24, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, September 22, 1902.

IN view of probability, as reported by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, of a renewal of hostilities between Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud and Ibn Raschid, it is desirable that Sheikh of Koweit should be warned not to encourage any action likely to bring him into difficulties with Nejd or with Turkish authorities. Please instruct Kemball accordingly.

No. 193.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 26.)

Sir,

India Office, September 25, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th instant regarding the capture of two armed dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," and to inform you, in reply, that his Lordship concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to approve the attitude adopted by Sir N. O'Connor in the matter, and to recommend to the Admiralty that the captured dhows should be sold for the benefit of the family of the deceased British seaman and of the other seamen wounded on the occasion, provided no claim to the dhows is made by the Persian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 194.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 26.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 25, 1902.

WITH reference to your letters of the 15th and 18th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram dated the 19th instant from Admiralty to the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, and of the latter's reply, dated the 24th instant, respecting the disposition of His Majesty's ships in the Persian Gulf and the Shatt-el-Arab.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, September 19, 1902.

YOUR Nos. 13 and 16.

Turkish Government deny report that Sheikh Yussuf Ibrahim has any intention of organizing attack on Koweit, and are apprehensive that three of His Majesty's ships may be sent to Bussorah, which they state would have unfortunate effect on the population. Foreign Office asks proposed disposition of "Cossack" and "Redbreast." Report by telegraph accordingly, and if either has been in Shatt-el-Arab; also where is "Sphinx."

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Trincomalee, September 24, 1902.

YOUR No. 86.

"Cossack" left Bushire for Bahrein Island 23rd September. "Redbreast" leaves Koweit shortly for Bushire, returning to Shatt-el-Arab to assist "Lapwing" in suppressing piracy during the date season. I have given directions that as soon as "Redbreast" can be spared from this duty she is to cruise in Persian Gulf for suppression of Slave Trade. Only "Lapwing" reported to have been in Shatt-el-Arab. "Sphinx" arrived at Bombay 10th September to receive new boiler.

No. 195.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 295.)

Foreign Office, September 26, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 407 of the 17th instant, relative to the complaint of the Vali of Bussorah that His Majesty's Consul at that place had brought unsubstantiated charges against Yusuf Ibn Ibrahim, of intriguing against the Sheikh of Koweit, and that three British ships of war were on their way to Bussorah.

I have already transmitted to you copies of a note from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires and correspondence with the Admiralty in regard to these complaints.

I approve your proposal to defer replying to the message which you received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 196.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 296.)

Foreign Office, September 27, 1902.

Sir,

I COMMUNICATED to the Secretary of State for India your Excellency's despatch No. 394 of the 9th instant, relative to the recent capture of Arab dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

Your attitude in regard to this matter is approved by His Majesty's Government.

I transmit to you herewith copies of correspondence with the India Office and the Admiralty on the subject of your suggestion for the disposal of the dhows.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 197.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 25th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in regard to the recent capture of Arab dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."†

Copies of correspondence with the India Office relative to Sir N. O'Connor's suggestion that the dhows should be sold by public auction and the proceeds be given to the family of the British sailor who was killed and to the wounded sailors are also inclosed.‡

* Nos. 185, 193, and 197.

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† No. 178.

‡ Nos. 185 and 193.

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Lord Lansdowne desires to recommend for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners that, unless some claim to the dhows be raised by the Persian Government, in whose territory they were captured, they should be dealt with in the manner suggested by Sir N. O'Connor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 198.

Consul Wratishaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 29.)
(No. 46. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, August 26, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29 of the 13th June last, I have the honour to report that Abdul Aziz, Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit, has been condemned by the Criminal Court of Bussorah to ten years' imprisonment in a fortress. The charge against him was that he committed treason by ordering and receiving the seditious Arabic newspaper, "Khilafat," published in London, and that he also carried on a treasonable correspondence with the editor, thereby incurring the penalties laid down in Article 58 of the Criminal Law, which fixes the punishment for such an offence at from three to fifteen years' imprisonment in a fortress.

The Agent offered practically no defence to the charge beyond asserting that he acted under instructions from his principal, Mubarek. The facts were, indeed, clearly proved by letters addressed to him by Mubarek, telling him to order the paper, and by the editor acknowledging receipt of his subscription. The latter further exhorted him to push the sale of the "Khilafat" amongst his friends, a point which probably told considerably against him.

Another letter from Mubarek was read in Court, in which the Sheikh of Koweit instructed his Agent to apply to the British Consulate in case he had any difficulty with the Turkish authorities. Asked by the presiding Judge whether he had acted on these instructions, Abdul Aziz asserted that he had not done so. Another unsigned letter, but one evidently from Mubarek, forwarded a letter to the Vali concerning his right to Umkasr, the answer to which the Agent was told to show the British Consul.

This letter also stated that the British Ambassador was kept constantly informed of what was going on, and that three or four British men-of-war continually protected Koweit.

Another letter from the editor of which the Vali told me, but which was not produced in Court, contained a warm invitation to Mubarek to attend His Majesty's Coronation.

Considering that Abdul Aziz throughout was acting solely on behalf of Mubarek, the sentence certainly seems extremely severe. He has addressed an appeal for mercy to the Sultan (this was dispatched, I believe, before the trial), and the latter has ordered the papers to be forwarded to Constantinople. The Vali replied that the dossier was already being sent to the Court of Cassation for revision in the ordinary course.

The conduct of Abdul Aziz in keeping such compromising documents as were produced in Court seems almost incomprehensible. Indeed, the Vali informed me that previously he had a high opinion of Mubarek's intellect, but that he now considered that a man who could keep such a fool for his agent must not be very bright himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 199.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 29.)
(No. 414. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 21, 1902.

IN his despatch No. 363 of the 11th ultimo, Mr. de Bunsen forwarded a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Wratishaw, reporting the appointment of Seyid Thalib Pasha as Mutessarif of Hassa, and the dispatch of reinforcements for that district in connection with the disturbances which had recently occurred there.

I now have the honour to forward copy of a further despatch from Mr. Wratishaw reporting the cessation of the disturbances in the Sanjak of Hassa and the consequent safe arrival of the reinforcements. Mr. Wratishaw's despatch contains also further details regarding the appointment of the new Mutessarif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Consul Wratishaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 43. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, August 15, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 33 of the 3rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that Seyid Thalib Pasha, the newly-appointed Mutessarif of Hassa, arrived here a fortnight ago, and is daily expected to leave for his post. For his conveyance he has chartered Mahsousse's steamer "Adana," which has been at Bussorah since her return from taking reinforcements to Katif.

I have been informed, but without being able to check the information, that Ibn Reshid was to a considerable extent instrumental in obtaining Thalib Pasha's appointment, and that the latter will act in his interests and against the Saoud family who have recently established themselves in Riadh.

I gather that the Vali does not view this appointment, on which he was consulted, with any favour, as the unscrupulous and venal character of the new Mutessarif is well known to his Excellency, as, indeed, to every one else in these regions.

The recent insurrection in Hassa has been calmed by the simple expedient of passing a wet sponge over the past, including the regrettable incident of the attack on the caravan, and offering a free pardon to all concerned, so the reinforcements reached Hassa without difficulty.

For some time past Thalib Pasha has been on bad terms with Mubarek, whose intimate friend he once was. There is some talk, however, of his calling at Koweit on his way down the coast with a view to a reconciliation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 200.

Consul Wratishaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, September 29.)

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Bussorah, August 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the partisans of Ibn Reshid at Zobeir have raided and captured a large number of camels, said to be 300, from tribes under the protection of Mubarak of Koweit.

Raids of this sort are not unusual occurrences, but there seems at the present time to be a tendency to profit by the presence of the Turkish garrison at Sefvan in order to rob from Mubarak's men without much fear of retaliation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 201.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 28th August, relative to the arrest at Bussorah of the Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit.

India Office, September 27, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Consul Wratislaw to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Bussorah, August 22, 1902.

AGENT of the Sheikh of Koweit was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in a fort yesterday.

No. 202.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 420.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to my despatch No. 408 of the 19th instant, to inclose herewith to your Lordship a telegram which I have received from the British Consul at Bussorah, in connection with the recent filibustering or piratical attack against Koweit, which was so successfully frustrated by the energetic action of the Commander of the "Lapwing" and watchfulness of the British Consul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 202.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 64.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bussorah, September 25, 1902.

SENIOR Naval Officer has forwarded sworn depositions taken at Koweit, of [group undecypherable] merchants who were at Dora when the expedition started, and who recognized Yusuf seeing it off, as well as several persons including a nephew of Sheikh of Koweit and the owner of dhow (?). Also depositions of persons who identified dhow as belonging to Yusuf. Under present circumstances it is in my opinion useless to submit this evidence to Vali, who is doing all in his power to stifle inquiry. If His Majesty's Government desire that the truth should be brought to light, Vali should be superseded. It is undesirable to let murder of British blue-jackets go unpunished, and Koweit will be constantly exposed to risk from such attacks unless we insist on Yusuf and nephews being removed from the district. Please let me have instructions. Sheikh of Mohammerah seems to have been got at.

Inclosure 2 in No. 202.

Sir N. O'Connor to Consul Wratislaw.

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 26, 1902.

YOUR telegram No. 64.

I may urge Ottoman Government to at once remove Yusuf and Sheikh's nephews in order to avoid more serious demands.

I fear it will be difficult to bring home charges sufficiently substantial to warrant demand for Vali's dismissal, and I cannot move in the matter without seeing the depositions and full evidence and laying the case before His Majesty's Government.

No. 203.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 1, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 420 respecting the abortive attempt to attack Koweit, I have received from Mr. Consul Wratislaw a telegram in which he

reports that it is considered essential by the Vali that the witnesses should come to Bussorah to give their depositions. His Excellency promises to allow them to depart freely afterwards.

Mr. Wratislaw thinks that if we give a guarantee that they will be allowed to depart the Sheikh of Mohammerah can be induced to send them, and he asks whether he can give such a guarantee.

I propose, with your Lordship's approval, to authorize Mr. Wratislaw to give the necessary guarantee if the Vali gives a written undertaking to let the men go free after their depositions are taken.

No. 204.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 102.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 5, 1902.

THE proposal in your telegram No. 99 of the 2nd instant is approved.

No. 205.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office October 6.)

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Bussorah, September 6, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of the 29th August, I have the honour to report that Khalid-el-Own, Yussouf-el-Ibrahim, and Mubarek's nephews seem inclined to continue their depredations on Koweit property, making Zobéir their base. A rumour was circulated some days ago that they were about to raid Sobieh, or the Sheikh's property at Fao, and the Vali's attention was drawn to it by Jaber-el-Sabah, Mubarek's brother, who is in charge of the Fao date gardens. The Vali tells me that he at once dispatched the Tabour Aghassi to Zobéir to make inquiries, and, at the same time, he gave orders that a company of soldiers should be held in readiness to march there if necessary. The Tabour Aghassi, however, reported that there was no need of military intervention, and the Vali appears to think that the rumour referred to was unfounded.

An attack on Fao, where there is a Turkish garrison, seems to me to be very unlikely, but there is no reason why Mubarek's enemies should cease their attacks on the outlying flocks and herds of Koweit so long as they can do so with impunity from the shelter of the Turkish lines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 206.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 429. Decypher.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 1, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 420 of the 26th September and to my telegram of to-day, I have the honour to send herewith full text of telegram received this morning from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 206.

Consul Wratistlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 65.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bussorah, September 30, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 27th September. I did not mean to suggest that the Vali should be dismissed, but superseded, in the conduct of inquiry. He is not bad, as Valis go. I handed him a translation of deposition to-day, which he passed on to the Public Prosecutor. Vali said essential that these witnesses should come to Bussorah, and he promised that they should be allowed to depart freely after deposing. I think that Sheikh could be induced to send them if this is guaranteed by us. May I offer guarantee? Vali agreed that the disappearance of Sheikh's two nephews ever since the occurrence is suspicious; and he no longer affects to make light of British trade, though doing nothing further than inquire.

No. 207.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 7.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 6, 1902.

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 27th ultimo, in which the recommendation is made that unless some claim to the dhows, recently captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" in the Persian Gulf, is raised by the Persian Government, they should be sold by public auction, and the proceeds given to the family of the British sailor who was killed and to the sailors wounded in the engagement with the dhows' crews.

In reply, my Lords desire me to represent, for Lord Lansdowne's consideration, that if, as appears probable, the dhows in question can properly be regarded as piratical vessels, it would appear that the procedure laid down in the Act 13 & 14 Vict., c. 26, should be followed in regard to their disposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 208.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 11.)

Sir,

India Office, October 10, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a telegram from the Governor-General, dated the 3rd instant, reporting a request from Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit for a gift of two or three guns to protect Koweit against a land attack.

Lord George Hamilton proposes, with Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, to approve the reply which the Government of India propose to return to the Sheikh's request, provided it is made clear that by "Koweit district" is meant the district adjoining or close to the bay of that name, as mentioned in Lord Lansdowne's Memorandum of the 21st March last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 208.

Government of India to Lord George Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

October 3, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 22nd September. Kemball has been instructed to warn Mubarak accordingly. Writing on the 6th September, he incloses a letter from Mubarak asking for gift of two or three guns, presumably to be placed at Jehara for protection of Koweit against land attack (see Captain Field's letter of the 28th September inclosed with Secretary's letter of the 21st November, 1901). Ibn Raschid is stated by Mubarak

to have with him a gun presented by Turks; according to Bahrein reports, he has five guns. The answer to Mubarak should, I presume, be that his request cannot be granted, but that His Majesty's Government undertake to defend Koweit district, provided that he complies with injunction conveyed to him in accordance with your telegram of the 4th December, 1901 (see Lord Lansdowne's Memorandum of the 21st March, 1902). Is this course approved, and have you any further directions? Please telegraph reply.

No. 209.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 13, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing a telegram from the Viceroy of India on the subject of a request from the Sheikh Mubarak for a gift of two or three guns for the protection of Koweit against a land attack.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for India to approve the reply which the Viceroy proposes to return to the Sheikh's request, provided that the "Koweit district" is clearly defined as the district adjoining or close to the bay of that name.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 210.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 14, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 25th September last relative to the disposal of the dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Admiralty,* suggesting that in this case the procedure laid down in Article 13 and 14 Vict., c. 26, should be followed.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Lord George Hamilton sees no objection, to concur in this suggestion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 211.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 445.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, October 10, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 429 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith paraphrase of a telegram from Mr. Wratistlaw reporting steps taken to obtain evidence in the approaching trial of the Koweit raiders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Consul Wratistaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, October 9, 1902.

KOWEIT raid. With reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 6th instant. The Vali has written to me that after Koweit witnesses have made their depositions they will be allowed to return home, and I have asked the Resident at Bushire, by telegraph, to endeavour to arrange with Mubarek for their passage in a man-of-war at once.

No. 212.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 25th September, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, October 14, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 212.

The Foreign Secretary, Simla, to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball, Shiraz.

(Telegraphic.)

September 24, 1902.

YOUR letter of the 8th August. Secretary of State desires that Mubarak should be warned against encouraging any action likely to involve him in difficulties with Nejd or Turkish Government.

No. 213.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 17.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 15, 1902.

WITH reference to former correspondence I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter, dated the 7th ultimo, from the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," reporting his proceedings at Koweit, and the capture of two dhows.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong to Admiralty.

Sir,

"Lapwing," at Bussorah, September 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I received information from Mr. Lovell, Telegraph Superintendent, at Fao, at about noon on the 3rd instant, that Yussuf-bin-Brahim had organized a surprise attack on Koweit for that night with two dhows supposed to contain 200 armed men, in conjunction with some land forces.

2. I got under weigh as soon as possible, and just managed to get over the bar on a falling tide and proceeded to Koweit with dispatch.

3. I arrived and anchored there about 11 P.M. and at once went on shore to warn Sheikh Mubarak; I found the whole town in arms, he having had previous information of the intended attack, and two suspicious-looking dhows had been reported off Failaka Island by some of his fishing-boats.

4. No attack took place; they probably had warning that Koweit was prepared for them, so, in the morning I took one of Sheikh Mubarak's men on board, who said he knew Bin Ibrahim's dhows, and skirted the banks round Failaka and Bubiyan Islands, and although we spoke several dhows, I could not get any reliable information.

5. I anchored that evening off the banks at the entrance to the Khor Abdalah, about south-south-east 9 miles from Fao Point, and next morning, the 5th, I sent armed boats to board all dhows in the vicinity, hoping to pick up news of the attacking dhows, or of any pirates that might be about, as this is a place where several piracies are said to have taken place.

6. At about 8 A.M. my cutter being about 3 miles north-east of the ship, signalled for assistance. I manned and armed all boats, closed her, and then proceeded to chase two dhows who had refused to stop when hailed, and had threatened to fire on the cutter; they were both full of armed men and were flying no flag. As at that time they were at least 6 miles from any land, I considered them to be pirates on the high seas.

7. I chased them round the Marakal Abdalah bank, and they then tried to head up the river towards Fao, but seeing that I was fast gaining on them they bore away for the Persian shore, and before I could come up with them they beached their dhows and got out through the mud on to dry land. I could then see that there were considerably over 100 men, probably about 150, and all armed with rifles.

8. Before I could stop them my boats grounded on mud so soft that we sank up to our waists in it when we got out to float them, which was managed with some difficulty, there being very strong flood tide running from 2 to 3 knots setting us over the mud towards the shore where there were several shallow creeks.

9. The Arabs had in the meantime got on dry land and lying down in the long grass opened fire on us at close range. We got the boats into deeper water, being covered by the fire from the cutter and steam-cutter who had got aground further out; the Arabs then retreated, and stopped firing, but still covered the landing, and seeing that it was quite impossible to land and attack them through the very soft mud I got my boats into deeper water. I had one man killed, James Joseph Daly, A.B., O.N. 138238, and two slightly wounded: Albert Freemantle, A.B., O.N. 201070; Alfred Rice, S.B.A., O.N. 350534; Freemantle in the right hand and back, and Rice very slightly in the hand. These men were all in the gig with me, a very heavy fire being concentrated upon us, several bullets going through the boat and through other men's clothing, &c. Several of the Arabs were seen to fall—I estimated their loss about six killed.

10. I then, with considerable difficulty, got the dhows afloat and partly sailed and partly towed them towards the ship channel.

11. The ship in the meantime got under weigh and came round to the bar and up the river as soon as the tide suited. I met her at the inner bar buoy at about 1:30 P.M., and we towed the dhows up to Fao.

12. I have communicated with the Turkish authorities, the dhows having been recognized as coming from Dura on the Turkish side of the river, the place where the expedition to attack Koweit was reported to have started from.

13. I would like to mention that no firing took place until the Arabs opened fire on me, when we replied to them; they opened fire very suddenly, and poured a very heavy fire into the gig and whaler at about 100 to 200 yards, and then retreated inland, keeping under cover in the long grass.

14. The dhows were found to contain a quantity of Martini ammunition and some articles of clothing and small gear, and also each dhow had a large scaling ladder, evidently meant for getting on to the house-tops in Koweit.

15. I would like to recommend Sub-Lieutenant Wm. B. Rowbotham for the able way in which he covered me in the gig and whaler from the cutter. Also gunner Vugler, who also did well in the steam-cutter. All the seamen behaved most excellently under fire, and I have nothing but praise for them, but I would specially like to recommend the following for their gallantry:—

James Joseph Daly, A.B., O.N. 138238 (who was killed).
James Dallaway, Lg. Sn., O.N. 174713.
Wm. H. Roberts, A.B., O.N. 204257.
Alfred Rice, S.B.A., O.N. 350534.
Albert Freemantle, A.B., O.N. 201070.
Wm. T. Bray, A.B., O.N. 191406.
Syd. H. Veale, A.B., O.N. 204006.
Wilfred Wesson, A.B., O.N. 201136.

The first three most strongly.

[1518]

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16. As I am in quarantine on the Turkish side, they would not allow me to bury James Daly at Fao, so I proceeded to Mohammerah next morning, the 6th, for that purpose, and have also informed the Sheikh and Vice-Consul there of the whole case.

17. This morning I proceeded here, and am in communication with the Consul.

18. The Consul here agrees with me that this incident will put a stop to, or at any rate considerably check, all piracy at the mouth of the river for some time to come.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. G. ARMSTRONG.

No. 214.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 14th instant, relative to the defence of Koweit.

India Office, October 16, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 214.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, October 14, 1902.

PROVIDED Koweit district is clearly defined as that adjoining or close to Koweit Bay, I approve the reply about the guns which you propose to make in your telegram of the 3rd instant.

No. 215.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 20.)

Sir,

India Office, October 17, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose herewith, for Lord Lansdowne's consideration, a copy of a telegram from the Governor-General on the subject of complaints made by the Sheikh of Koweit as to the constant annoyances to which he is subjected by Turkish subjects.

Lord George Hamilton is aware that a representation on this subject was made to the Grand Vizier by Sir N. O'Connor on the 25th March last, which has, so far, led to no improvement in the position, and he is inclined to think that the only effective way of stopping these raids is by action such as that recently taken by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing." In the meantime, a remonstrance such as that proposed by the Governor-General would strengthen our position if it were not attended to.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 8, 1902.

SHEIKH of Koweit in letters, forwarded by Resident in Persian Gulf, complains of constant annoyance from Yusuf-el-Ibrahim and others under Turkish protection, an intended attack by whom on Koweit was probably frustrated by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," as indicated in Wratislaw's telegram to O'Connor regarding "Lapwing's" encounter with armed dhows in Khor Abdulla.

There appears to be sufficient ground for protesting strongly, and demanding that Porte should take measures to prevent further attempts which might induce serious complications.

No. 216.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 118.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 22, 1902.

IN my immediately preceding telegram I repeated to you a telegram from the Viceroy of India of the 8th instant relative to the proceedings of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim in regard to Koweit.

As since the date of the representations reported in your despatch No. 144 of the 25th March the situation does not appear to have improved, you should now make the further remonstrance suggested by the Viceroy.

No. 217.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 107.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 23, 1902.

VICEROY of India's telegram of the 8th October, repeated in your Lordship's telegram No. 117 of the 22nd ultimo and your telegram No. 118 of the same date, relative to contemplated raid on Koweit thwarted by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

I have already called attention of Porte to the matter. Evidence is now being collected in proof of participation of Sheikh's nephews and Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, and I am waiting results of the inquiry before deciding as to expediency of demanding the expulsion of those individuals from Bussorah. Satisfaction for killed and wounded sailors may possibly also be demanded.

His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah inquires whether Turkish Magistrate may take on board the "Lapwing" the evidence of the witnesses brought by her from Koweit. If your Lordship considers this open to objection, Mr. Wratislaw proposes that he and the Commander should escort the witnesses from the ship to the Court and back.

If your Lordship's instructions could be telegraphed direct to Bussorah much time would be saved.

No. 218.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 123.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1902.

KOWEIT. I have received your Excellency's telegram No. 107 of yesterday.

You are presumably satisfied that a Turkish Magistrate can, according to Turkish law, take evidence of witnesses in British territory for use in Turkish Law Courts.

The view of His Majesty's Government is that a British ship of war in Turkish territorial waters is entirely outside Turkish jurisdiction, and that it is merely as a matter of courtesy and favour that any action by the Turkish officials is permitted on board of her.

If these conditions are clearly understood, His Majesty's Government would not object to evidence being taken by the Turkish authorities on board His Majesty's ship "Lapwing;" but the more convenient course would certainly be that the witnesses should attend the Court under safe conduct, all other precautions for their safety being taken which may be considered expedient.

His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah has been informed accordingly by telegraph.

No. 219.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Consul Wratislaw.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1902.

I HAVE to-day sent the following telegram to His Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, who repeated to me your inquiry whether there is any objection to the evidence of witnesses brought from Koweit being taken on board His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" by a Turkish Magistrate.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 465.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 21, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 445 of the 10th instant, in which was inclosed paraphrase of a telegram, No. 66, from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, respecting the attendance of witnesses from Koweit at the inquiry to be held into the recent raid on the Sheikh's territory, prepared by Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim, I have the honour to report that I have to-day received a further telegram from Mr. Wratishaw, of which the following is a paraphrase:—

"No. 67 of the 20th October. So far the Resident has sent me no reply to my telegram, but the 'Lapwing' has been dispatched to Koweit by the Senior Naval Officer. According to the Sheikh the witnesses are not at Koweit, but he has several others who can furnish evidence to the same effect, and he has allowed them to come to Bussorah, where they arrived yesterday, on the 'Lapwing,' but only on the express condition that the Commander would not let them out of his sight. In these circumstances I propose, with your Excellency's approval, to request the Vali to send an Examining Magistrate to take their depositions on board His Majesty's ship. I should be glad if your Excellency would reply by telegraph.

"Failing this, the witnesses might be accompanied to the Court and back to the ship by the Commander, and it would be well, I think, that I should go with them also.

"I think the former arrangement would be preferable, but the Vali may raise objections to both."

I should be obliged if your Lordship will inform me by telegraph what instructions I should send to Mr. Wratishaw.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 221.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 24, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter dated the 19th ultimo, from the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," relative to his proceedings at Bussorah, and the capture of armed dhows.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. J. VAN SITTART NEALE.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong to Admiralty.

Sir,

"Lapwing," at Bussorah, September 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Sheikh of Mohammerah has caught at Minuheh, a village on the Persian side opposite Dura, fifteen men armed with rifles (three have since escaped) attempting to cross the river to Dura, the night after my capture of the dhows.

2. I was present at the examination of some of them on the 14th instant, and although they will not admit that they know anything about the dhows or expedition, the circumstantial evidence is sufficient to prove that they were of the party.

3. They are men from a village called Aboul Khasib in Turkish territory, about 10 miles below Bussorah. I have heard that two Arabs wounded by Lee-Metford bullets are at present in this village.

4. The Wali here at first repudiated the idea of an expedition, and said it was a common case of piracy, and that no expedition could start from his territory without his knowledge; he now appears to be making inquiries from various river villages, but he is taking no effective action in the matter, and I am afraid he will not do so unless forced.

No. 220*.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 27.)

Sir,

India Office, October 23, 1902.

IN reply to your letter of the 14th October, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to say that his Lordship sees no objection to the proposal of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty with regard to the disposal of the proceeds of the sale of the dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

5. The Arabs are afraid to give information against Sheikh Yussuf-bin-Ebrahim, who is a very powerful man, so it is almost impossible to get direct evidence to give the Wali against him, but the circumstantial evidence, combined with a quantity of information obtained secretly, make it quite certain that the expedition was organized by Sheikh Yussuf, and left Turkish territory to attack Koweit.

6. The Wali has inquired officially from the Consul the reason for the "Lapwing's" presence in these waters, and also an explanation of my recent movements; he states that he has received instructions from Constantinople to do this. I gather from this that there is some intention on the part of the Turkish authorities to question the legality of my actions.

7. On arriving at Mohammerah on the 13th instant, I was informed by the Vice-Consul that the grave of Daly had been violated and the coffin broken open; the Sheikh had been communicated with, and had remade the grave. He is trying to find the perpetrators of the outrage, and has levied a tax on all the surrounding villages unless they give information which will lead to the punishment of the culprits. I think this must be only a case of common robbery, the Arabs being under the impression that jewellery is always buried with the Christian dead.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. ARMSTRONG.

No. 222.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 27, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, dated the 24th ultimo, relative to affairs at Koweit and the capture of two dhows by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. J. THOMAS,
Pro Sec.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Rear-Admiral Drury to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

"Highflyer," at Trincomalee, September 24, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 16, I have the honour to forward, for the information of their Lordships, the following paraphrase of a telegram received by me at Mauritius on the 15th instant:—

"Cossack," Bushire, September 14, 1902.

"All is quiet at Koweit. Except for the fact that Arabs are supposed to have been raised and dispatched from Turkish territory, no political importance attaches to the late affair.

"There is a strong presumption that the affair was entirely organized and carried out by Yusef-bin-Ibrahim, who is a rich Arab and an inveterate enemy of the Sheikh of Koweit, and lives 12 miles from Fao at the durah on Bussorah River, but no direct evidence has yet been obtained.

"After committing depredations at Serwan and Soobekal, land force of Arabs dispersed.

"No further difficulties are apprehended. 'Redbreast' is not required, and, according to your orders, she proceeds to Bushire and Shat-el-Arab.

"'Cossack' is collecting evidence. She remains Koweit till the 16th September, and then returns to Bushire."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. DRURY, *Rear-Admiral,*
Commander-in-chief.

No. 223.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that he has communicated with the Secretary of State for India in regard to the suggestion made in your letter of the 6th instant, as to the disposal of the dhows recently captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" in the Persian Gulf.

Lord George Hamilton has informed Lord Lansdowne that he sees no objection to the course proposed in your letter, and his Lordship concurs in this view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 224.

Consul Wratistaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 3.)

(No. 55. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, September 30, 1902.

IN accordance with the desire expressed in your Excellency's telegram of the 26th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the depositions taken at Koweit by the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Cossack." Captain Cartwright states that they were taken down in English through the medium of an interpreter, and then read over in Arabic to the witnesses, who attached their seals in the presence of the Kadi of Koweit.

The parrot-like repetitions, which your Excellency will observe in these depositions, do not necessarily imply collusion or perjury, but I am unable to absolutely guarantee their genuineness. I have very little doubt that the expedition started as related by the witnesses, but in this country false evidence is so easy to procure, and so little odium is attached to the use of it, that the possibility of their having to oblige their Sheikh related as a personal experience the account they received from others must always be reckoned with.

Commander Cartwright, however, who was present when the depositions were made, and should be best able to judge, does not suggest any doubt as to the *bona fides* of the witnesses.

I have already informed your Excellency by telegraph of the course of events since the encounter of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" with the two dhows, but there are one or two points regarding which further explanation is necessary.

In my interview with the Vali of the 8th instant, reported in telegram No. 59 of the 9th instant, I was much struck by the almost insulting levity with which the Vali received my observations. I had already learned from a trustworthy informant that in his presence the Vali had expressed a disbelief in Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong's story, which, he insinuated, had been concocted between the latter and Sheikh Mubarek, and when finally his Excellency told me that he could not believe that the "Lapwing" had her Commander wished, was unable to catch the dhows by steaming after them instead of sending her boats, I thought it advisable to inform his Excellency with some warmth that I could not admit for a moment that discredit should be thrown on a British officer's statement of facts which came under his immediate observation, particularly as I had already explained to him that the chase had taken place across mudbanks where a ship of the "Lapwing's" size could not possibly follow. His Excellency immediately climbed down, and hastened to assure me that he had only meant to say that without corroboration he could not accept the Commander's accusation against Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, but this explanation was incorrect.

Throughout our interview Mustafa Nouri Pasha endeavoured to combat every argument I brought forward, acting more like the advocate of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim than an impartial Governor, and he finally informed me that he could take no notice of my complaint until it was put into writing.

I accordingly wrote him a letter, copy of which is inclosed herewith, and on the 10th instant received his reply, informing me that he was sending a Commission on board the "Lapwing" to take evidence. I accompanied the Commission on board, and interpreted Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong's evidence to the Juge d'Instruction, to whom the seal found in one of the dhows was shown.

With regard to this seal, I should state that I had previously caused inquiries to be made concerning the identity of the person whose name it bore, viz., Ahmed-bin-Mohammed-el-Asousi, and had no difficulty in ascertaining him to be a man in Yusuf-el-Ibrahim's confidence, who forms one of the armed bodyguard which accompanies him wherever he goes.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah heard the same from independent sources, but the Vali assures me that he has been unable to learn anything concerning him except that he is believed to be a resident at Koweit, and that Yusuf-el-Ibrahim denied all knowledge of him.

Meanwhile, twelve armed men, who presumably belonged to the crews of the dhows, had been arrested in Mohammerah territory under the circumstances stated in the inclosed copy of a Report from Mr. McDouall to His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Bushire. Their accounts of themselves are so full of contradictions as to be evidently false, but they have hitherto refused to confess, and I have come to the conclusion, in which I believe His Majesty's Vice-Consul concurs, that the Sheikh purposely avoids extracting the truth from them for fear of incurring the enmity of the Vali and Yusuf-el-Ibrahim. My own private inquiries have come to very little through my informants suddenly failing me when it became known that the Vali was protecting Yusuf-el-Ibrahim. For instance one Haji Ibrahim, a leading Arab of the place, who had informed me of the presence of a wounded man at Abul-Rasib, and of various details connected with the abortive expedition to Koweit, was actually sent down the river by the Vali to make private inquiries for his Excellency.

I sent my Dragoman to see him while thus engaged, and he gave him further information; *inter alia*, that the wounded man had been removed to Dora, and stated that on his return he would let me know everything. He came back to Bussorah and made his report to the Vali, after which I could get nothing out of him except that he knew nothing whatever.

There is little to add to my telegram No. 63 of the 18th instant, reporting my call on the Vali, in company with Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong, beyond one remark which he made in reply to my explanation of the position of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," viz., that the fact of the dhows flying no flags refusing to heave-to when ordered by a man-of-war, and threatening to fire on her boats, justified the man-of-war in treating them as pirates. His Excellency said, "Yes; but not when there is a political side to the question," a remark which appears to me to imply that the dhows in question were engaged in a political mission, *i.e.*, to reinstate the former Sheikh's son in his father's position at Koweit.

To-day I again called on the Vali with Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong, and handed him a Turkish translation of the depositions taken at Koweit. Instead of, as I expected, ridiculing their source and form, his Excellency appeared rather impressed by their contents, and asked why Sheikh Mubarek had not forwarded these statements to him before.

He then called the Assistant Public Prosecutor, and, after consultation, informed me that for the purposes of the judicial inquiry (to which he had been strictly limited by orders from Constantinople), the witnesses would have to come to Bussorah to give their evidence.

I replied that the Commander of the "Cossack" had been told at Koweit that they were afraid to come. The Vali expressed naïve astonishment at this, and said they would only be interrogated, and could leave immediately after. I asked if his Excellency would give me his word that they should not be detained, and he said, "Yes."

Since telegraphing to your Excellency to inquire if I might guarantee to Sheikh Mubarek that the witnesses would return to him safe and sound, I have received a letter from the Vali informing me that he has telegraphed to "Sheikh Mubarek Pasha, Kaïmakam of Koweit," asking him to forward the witnesses.

By "telegraph" he probably means that a telegram to Fao will be dispatched thence to Koweit by boat, as the wire ends at Fao.

In the above interview the Vali, in answer to my inquiries, again stated that he had learned nothing further about the origin of the dhows and their crews, and that he was still awaiting information from Mohammerah. He stated, however, that the disappearance of Mubarek's nephews, Khalid-bin-Mohammed and Hamoud-bin-Jerrah, since the occurrence was a significant fact.

It is absolutely incredible that a man in the Vali's position, with the means at his disposal, should, after nearly four weeks, have failed to find out every detail concerning an incident which is a matter of public notoriety in his district. He has suggested no alternative explanation, and I can only conclude that he knows all about it, and is

wilfully concealing his information from me. It is obviously discreditable to him that such an expedition should have been allowed to quit the Shat-el-Arab either with or without his knowledge, and he is probably doing all in his power to avoid the responsibility being brought home to him. The great local influence of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim is also an important factor in this conspiracy of silence.

It would, in my humble opinion, be very regrettable were this inquiry allowed to die a natural death. Not only would our prestige suffer were it known that British seamen could be shot down with impunity, and that we are powerless to punish malefactors whom the Turkish authorities choose to protect, but it is greatly to be desired that such an opportunity should not be allowed to escape of removing the constant menace to Koweit which the presence in this neighbourhood of Yusuf and the nephews of Mubarek entails. Yusuf is a vindictive Arab with a violent grudge against Mubarek, and his great wealth makes him very dangerous. The nephews have their father's murders to avenge and their position to recover, and so long as they are here it will be the merest prudence to keep a man-of-war constantly stationed at this end of the Gulf for the protection of Mubarek. Even this cannot insure a surprise attack being some day pushed home.

In conclusion, I venture to draw your Excellency's attention to the value of the service rendered by Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong.

Probably it was the promptitude with which he proceeded to Koweit which prevented an attack on the town, but in any case the excellent judgment he showed in taking up a position which enabled him to intercept the dhows on their return resulted in the Arabs of the Shat-el-Arab receiving a much-needed lesson. It will certainly be more difficult in future to organize semi-piratical expeditions of this sort, and I anticipate that an excellent impression will have been produced on the criminal inhabitants of the river banks who indulge in ordinary piracies whenever they see a safe opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 224.

Depositions taken at Koweit.

Mahomed-bin-Rouayah.

I WAS at Durah buying dates, &c., on the 2nd September. I then saw armed men going into two dhows to the number of 120 or 130 each, and I asked the man from whom I was buying dates to where they were going, and he informed me Koweit. Among the number of men were Atbi (Mahomet-bin-Sabah's son), Ahmed-bin-Jara-bin-Sabah, Muntar, Ahmed-bin-Mahomed Asousi. Yusef-bin-Ibrahim was present when the boats left Durah, and returned to Durah after they had sailed.

(Arabic seal.)

Note.—Ahmed-bin-Jara-bin-Sabah is evidently Mubarek's nephew, Hamoud-bin-Jerrah-bin-Sabah.

Ali-bin-Sheraf.

I was in Durah buying dates on the 2nd September, and about 7:30 in the evening I went to a creek to wash my hands ready for prayers. I saw a lot of armed men going into two boats. I asked them where they were going to, and they told me Koweit. I saw Yusef-bin-Ibrahim going in the dhows to the end of the creek, and when they made sail he returned in his "bellum" to his house.

(Arabic seal.)

Mahomed-bin-Henat.

I was at Durah buying dates on the 2nd September. I saw armed men in two dhows at about 7:30 at night. I asked the people where they were going to, and I was told Koweit.

I saw among the armed men Atbi (Mahomet-bin-Sabah's son), Ahmed-bin-Jara-bin-Sabah, Muntar, Serai, Ahmed-bin-Mahomed Asousi. I saw Yusef-bin-Ibrahim present also, and he returned to his house after the boats left.

(Arabic seal.)

Ali Bou Kahail.

I was at Durah buying dates on the 2nd September, and I saw armed men going down quickly into two boats about 7:30 P.M., coming from Yusef-bin-Ibrahim's house. I asked them where they were going to, and they told me Koweit. I recognized among the armed men Atbi (Mahomed-bin-Sabah's son), Ahmed-bin-Jara-bin-Sabah, Muntar, Serai, Ahmed-bin-Mahomed-Asousi. Yusef-bin-Ibrahim was present, and when the boats had gone he went back to his house.

(Arabic seal.)

Abdullah-bin-Ibrahim.

I was on board the "Lapwing" when she captured the two dhows, and I recognized both of them as being those which left Durah to attack Koweit. They are the property of Yusef-bin-Ibrahim.

(Arabic seal.)

Hussein-bin-Massoud.

I have seen the boats which the "Lapwing" has captured, and they both belong to Yusef-bin-Ibrahim, of Durah.

(Arabic seal.)

Abdullah-bin-Faudri.

I have seen the boats which the "Lapwing" has captured, and they both belong to Yusef-bin-Ibrahim, of Durah.

(Arabic seal.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 224.

Consul Wratislaw to Mustafa Nouri Pasha.

Sir,

Bussorah, September 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the following facts which have been reported to me by the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," now in quarantine at Bussorah.

On the 3rd September the Commander received information that Sheikh Yussuf-el-Ibrahim had organized an attack by sea from Dora on Koweit, while his friends were to co-operate by land, and the "Lapwing" accordingly proceeded at once to Koweit. There he found all the population under arms in readiness to repel an attack, as news had already been received of what was intended, and he was informed that two suspicious-looking dhows had been seen that day by Koweit fishermen near Failaka Island. Accordingly, the "Lapwing" proceeded next day to a convenient position between Fao and the entrance to Khor Abdullah, and sent boats to examine all passing dhows. Two dhows full of armed men having refused to stop when ordered to do so, and having threatened to fire on the boat which hailed her, three other boats were lowered, and, with the Captain in command, pursued the two dhows. The latter attempted to enter the Shat-el-Arab, but were cut off by the boats, and were finally driven on shore at a place between the Shat-el-Arab and the Bahmeshir River, and the crews, numbering at least

100 men, waded through the mud to land. Concealing themselves in the reeds, they suddenly opened a heavy fire on the "Lapwing's" boats as they approached, killing one seaman and slightly wounding two others. The boats fired in return, but owing to the pirates being concealed, the Commander is unable to say exactly with what effect, but he believes that five or six Arabs fell. Finally the boats were able to bring away the dhows, which are now anchored in the Shatt within the "Lapwing."

It is unnecessary for me to point out to your Excellency the serious nature of this occurrence, in which a seaman of His Majesty's navy was murdered. Such evidence as is available indicates the culpability of Turkish subjects from Dora and of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim in the matter, and no doubt your Excellency will take immediate and energetic measures for a full investigation.

The above information was communicated to your Excellency by me verbally this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 3 in No. 224.

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Crnsul Wratislaw.

(Translation.)

August 28 (September 10), 1902.

YOUR letter of the 8th instant was received yesterday at 4.30 P.M. As I informed you during our interview, with regard to the two "cayiks" seized by the war-ship "Lapwing," and brought here with their gear, as well as the killing of one of the "Lapwing's" crew, as soon as news of these events was received from the Mudir of Fao, inquiries of a thorough nature were at once made. In compliance with the request contained in the last paragraph of your letter, Kazim Effendi, Chief Commissaire of Police, and Shukri Effendi, Juge d'Instruction, accompanied by Halil Effendi, dragoman of the vilayet, were sent to you in order that they might see the two "cayiks," the papers and effects about which the Commander of the "Lapwing" made a declaration to the Mudir of Fao, and the seal spoken of by you in our interview, with the object of pursuing further the investigations, and of bringing the facts to light as soon as possible in conformity with the dispositions of the law. It is requested that you will kindly get the Commander of the "Lapwing" to allow these officials on board, and there show them the "cayiks," effects, and seal, and to give them any information or explanations of a nature to bring the truth to light, and to help the investigations to a conclusion, thereby giving them such assistance as he can.

In the first paragraph of your letter, it is asserted that the Commander of the "Lapwing" had received news of a joint attack on Koweit to be made at sea by a company formed by the Sheikh Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, and on land by his partisans. In reply, I beg to state that it is clear from the contents of the reports furnished by officials sent especially to conduct inquiries that their having been found in a state of preparedness for such an attack on Koweit from the Zobeir direction is quite unsubstantiated, and a mere rumour of ordinary "circumstances" such as sometimes occur among the tribes.

I have, &c.

Inclosure 4 in No. 224.

Vice-Consul McDouall to Consul-General Meade.

(No. 74.)

[Undated.]

IN continuation of my No. 70 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that his Excellency Sardar Arfa has informed me that he has interrogated Nasir, the man who arrested the twelve men suspected of complicity in the attack on His Majesty's ship "Lapwing's" boats on the 5th instant.

Nasir is the head of the Bu Marif section of the Muhaysin and of the Manyuhi district. His evidence reduced to narrative form from the questions and answers taken down by his Excellency's clerk is as follows:—

About two and a-half hours after sunset on the night of the 5th instant, I sent Mohamed-bin-Abdulnabi to tell the fellahs to bring dates to the packing shed. Mohamed, on leaving the gardens, saw three men and some others in the grass. He went up to them and asked them who they were: the others then came up, making ten.

They said, "We tell you in confidence we want to cross the river and will pay you 4 krans for doing so [sic] secretly; we are afraid of being seen."

This, and the fact that they were armed, aroused his suspicions, and he brought them to the Mudif where I was. I lighted a lamp, and called some of my men and disarmed them, finding they could not give a satisfactory account of themselves, and put them under arrest till morning.

I then went to the roof of my house to sleep. I heard some people passing below. I called out, "Who are you?" The man with them replied, "Two of Bin Ibrahim's men, who want to cross the river." I gave orders to arrest them. I have been told that some of the arrested men said they had been to Koweit to act in conjunction with Bin Ibrahim's friends there, but seeing a man-of-war they were frightened, and had been pursued by the man-of-war, and had had a fight.

I heard that Gharib's wife was weeping because her baby was dead, and this was not true. I now understand that a relative of hers had been killed or wounded.

The three other rifles were brought to me in the morning from one of the other hamlets of Manyhi. The man who brought them said that three men had been his guests last night, and he was "to have ferried them across the river in the morning. He took their rifles, and went to sleep. In the morning they had disappeared, leaving their rifles. I sent the men and rifles under guard to Falia."

Gharib is the man who was with the two suspects last arrested, Tymer and Jumaa, and his wife is a relative of these two men. They stated, when examined, that they put up at the house of Gharib.

(Signed) McDOUALL.

No. 225.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 116.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 3, 1902.

KOWEIT raid.

Following received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to-day:—

"Vali categorically refuses to allow the Commander of His Majesty's ship to accompany witnesses during examination on shore, nor will he permit the Magistrate to go on board to examine them. He says the witnesses are Ottoman subjects, and must be examined alone on shore in the usual manner, and he denies our right to intervene. I have requested 'Lapwing' to remain pending any instructions which your Excellency may obtain from the Porte for the Vali."

I have sent the following in reply:—

"Besides the delay which would inevitably arise from reference to the Porte, I am altogether unwilling to bring the case before the Turkish Government at its present stage.

"Does not the Vali's written engagement constitute a sufficient guarantee? If it does not, there is no other course that I can see than to take the evidence of witnesses ourselves, without the Turkish authorities.

"You should take care that no pretensions of the Vali to consider Koweitlis as Ottoman subjects are admitted."

No. 226.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 122.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 8, 1902.

KOWEIT raid.

My telegram No. 116 of the 3rd November.

Following from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, dated yesterday:—

"I have taken the depositions of the witnesses myself. In my opinion they prove conclusively the participation of Yusuf in the expedition. I am sending copies of them to the Vali, and I am to-day posting translations to your Excellency.

"I cannot overcome Vali's obstruction with any means at my disposal, and I propose to take no further action until I receive your Excellency's instructions."

I consider it to be unnecessary to ask the Porte to send instructions to the Vali overruling his objections, and thus raise question of status of Koweitlis, more especially as I think diplomatic pressure for the removal of Yusuf can be sufficiently justified by the depositions taken by the Consul. I therefore propose, subject to your Lordship's approval, to instruct Mr. Wratislaw to allow witnesses to return to Koweit on board the "Lapwing," where they still remain.

No. 227.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 146.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 11, 1902.

INSTRUCTIONS to His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, proposed in your telegram No. 122 of the 8th instant, are approved.

No. 228.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 13.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 10, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Report by the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Cossack," relative to the attempted attack on Koweit by dhows.

I am to add that if Lord Lansdowne concurs in the action taken by Lieutenant Armstrong, they propose to express approval of that officer's conduct, and of that of the other officers and men engaged.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Commander Cartwright to Rear-Admiral Drury.

Sir,

"Cossack," at Bushire, September 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" arrived at Muscat on the 4th September, and that I took over the duties of Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, on that day. His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" sailed for Bombay on the 5th September.

2. I sailed from Muscat on the 6th September for Bushire, but, owing to a strong "shamal" in the Gulf, I did not reach that place until the 10th September, when I received your telegram ordering me to Koweit after conferring with the "Lapwing" at Bussorah.

3. Owing to the draught of the "Cossack" I am unable to cross the Shat-al-Arab bar except at spring tide, although on an emergency, by "pushing" through the mud, I might get over. I therefore telegraphed to the "Lapwing" to meet me outside on the morning of the 12th September.

4. I sailed from Bushire on the 11th September, and arrived outside the bar at daylight on the 12th September. The "Lapwing" was there at anchor and I inquired fully into the late affair, and it would appear that the Turks are trying to make out that it was only an ordinary case of piracy, and not an organized attack, and that there was also great difficulty in getting evidence. I proceeded to Koweit at 9 A.M., and arrived at that place the same evening, where I found His Majesty's ship "Redbreast," who had arrived from Muscat that morning.

5. There is very little doubt that the dhows were manned and equipped by Yusef-bin-Ibrahim, a rich and influential Arab living at Durah, a place in Turkish territory on the Bussorah River about 12 miles above Fao. By murdering his half-brother, one Sheikh Mahomet, the then Ruler of Koweit, the present Sheikh (Mubarak) gained the place;

Yusef-bin-Ibrahim married a sister of Sheikh Mahomet and has ever since been an inveterate enemy of Sheikh Mubarak, and some years ago attempted a similar expedition against Koweit. From the information I have obtained it appears that a force of about 450 Arabs was raised from Zoheir, Durah, and other villages in Turkish territory, and even Bussorah itself, 300 were sent to raid by land, and about 150 in the dhows. The land force looted some sheep and camels at Serwan and Soobeyah, and then dispersed. I am unable to imagine what Yusef expected to do with the small number of men in the dhows, unless he had got partisans in Koweit itself and hoped to make a dash at Mubarak's house, which is by the sea, and murder the Sheikh himself before the townspeople could make an effective defence. There is no evidence to show that the Turks took an active part in any way, but it is probable that some of their officials knew what was going on. The action of the "Lapwing" will probably be a great check on the intrigues of Yusef, besides acting with deterrent effect on the ordinary river pirates.

6. In this affair Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong acted with great dash, resolution, and gallantry, and I consider that its success and the exemplary behaviour of the men under very trying circumstances is due to his personal example. He personally led his boats, and the chase covered about 12 miles in the intense heat of a summer month of the Persian Gulf. When the larger boats grounded, he still advanced with a gig and whaler, and was exposed to the fire of about 150 Arabs at a range of about 100 yards, losing one man killed and two wounded in his own boat. His action will greatly increase the prestige of the British navy among the Gulf Arabs, who fully realize the fact that, in spite of resistance, 150 Arabs armed with rifles were beaten by about one-fifth the number of British bluejackets, also only armed with rifles. It will also have a very good effect on the disorderly characters on both sides of the Bussorah River. Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong in his Report has, of course, not referred to his own gallant conduct, but, as Senior Officer of this Division, I beg to submit the details that I have gathered of this plucky action, with a view to your most favourable consideration of Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong's personal bravery.

7. I interviewed Sheikh Mubarak on the 13th instant, but although he had important witnesses, he was very averse to allowing them to go to Bussorah to give their evidence, as he would not trust them with the Turks, who, he said, in spite of our supervision, would capture and imprison them, if not worse. In this he may be right, so I arranged for him to collect his witnesses on the 15th instant, when I would examine them under oath, the Mahomedan priest, before whom their most binding oaths are sworn, being in attendance.

8. His Majesty's ship "Redbreast" sailed for Bushire with my telegram to you on the 13th instant, and after coaling will proceed to the Shat-al-Arab, in accordance with your orders. I have informed Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong that, having now two gun-boats for the suppression of piracy, I consider that one should always be stationed outside the bar, as most of the piracies occur on the banks between Khor Abdalla and Khor Bahmishir.

9. I landed on the 15th instant, and examined four witnesses who were at Durah on the 2nd September. They all swore that they saw the armed men being put into the dhows on that day about 7-30 P.M., and that they were informed that the dhows were to attack Koweit. They also gave the names of five of the chief men with the party, and stated that Yusef-bin-Ibrahim himself saw the men into the dhows, but returned to his house when they sailed. Other witnesses also swore to the dhows which the "Lapwing" captured being Yusef-bin-Ibrahim's property.

10. I am in hopes that this evidence will force the Turkish authorities to take action against Yusef-bin-Ibrahim, but it is probable that, unless our own Government press the matter very strongly, he will escape punishment by means of bribes.

11. I sailed from Koweit on the 16th instant, and arrived here this evening.

12. About one-third of the ship's company are suffering from boils, fourteen of whom are incapacitated from duty. The Medical Officer is of opinion that this is due to the men having run down, owing to the time they have been on the station. With this exception, the health of the ship's company is good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. G. CARTWRIGHT,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Persian
Gulf Division.

No. 229.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 14.)

Sir,

India Office, November 12, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th June last asking for Colonel Kemball's observations upon a complaint made by the Turkish Ambassador regarding his conduct in the matter of the plundering of a vessel belonging to the Sheikh of Koweit by pirates, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a Secret letter from the Government of India, dated the 16th October, and inclosure, transmitting Colonel Kemball's report.

I am to add that his Lordship concurs in the view of the Government of India, that Colonel Kemball's action in the matter was completely justified.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 229.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

Simla, October 16, 1902.

IN accordance with the request contained in your Lordship's Secret despatch, dated the 4th July last, we have the honour to forward, for the information of His Majesty's Government, a copy of a report by our Political Resident in the Persian Gulf upon the representation made by the Turkish Ambassador, relative to an appeal which is alleged to have been made by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Resident for assistance in regard to the plundering of Koweit vessels by Persian pirates.

2. In our opinion the action of Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball in sending a ship of war to the scene of the piracy to obtain particulars of the occurrence was completely justified.

We have, &c.
(Signed) CURZON.
A. P. PALMER.
T. RALEIGH.
E. FG. LAW.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 229.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential indorsement, dated the 29th July, forwarding the Secret despatch from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated the 4th July, with inclosures, and to report as follows:—

On the 31st May, I received information from Fao that Sheikh Mubarek had arrived in the Shatt-el-Arab with a fleet of buggalows reported to contain armed men in connection with a piracy which had been committed on a Koweit boat. On receipt of this information, being anxious to prevent the occurrence of any imprudent act on the part of the Sheikh which might give rise to future trouble, I sent a message to Sheikh Mubarek advising him to return home, and to submit a report to me about the piracy, regarding which I had as yet received no information.

I also communicated with the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf and desired him to send a ship to Fao, and if Mubarek was still there, to advise him to return home. I asked the Senior Naval Officer to be so good as to obtain for me all the information which he could about the piracy, so that I might be in a position to submit a report on the subject to the Government of India.

The Senior Naval Officer was not able to comply with my request at once, but His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" arrived at Mohammerah on the 13th June, Sheikh Mubarek

having meanwhile visited his friend Sheikh Khazal at Mohammerah, and having returned to Koweit a few days before the arrival of the "Sphinx" at Mohammerah.

Sheikh Mubarek visited Mohammerah entirely of his own accord and not in accordance with any instructions from me. He made no special appeal to me in the matter.

The Government of India are aware that the occurrence of piracies in the Shatt-el-Arab and in its neighbourhood is a matter of grave concern as affecting the interests of British trade, and my action in sending a ship of war to inquire into the matter was, I think, fully justified.

No. 230.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 17.)

(No. 59. Confidential.)

Bussorah, October 17, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of the "Lapwing" incident, I have the honour to inclose herewith the translated deposition of a certain Gharib, made before His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah and the Karguzar (Representative of the Persian Government). This man entertained, for the night after the incident, two of the fugitives from the Dora dhows, one of whom was a relative of his wife, and declared to him that he had been paid by the son of Mubarek's late brother, Jerrah, to attack Koweit with others. There seems a doubt about this man's name, but he was identified by Gharib from amongst the other prisoners of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, and acknowledged Gharib as his connection by marriage.

I see no grounds whatever for doubting the truth of Gharib's statements, which are otherwise confirmed, and I propose to supply the Vali with a copy of his deposition.

It seems unfortunately but too probable that the Sheikh of Mohammerah is not acting fairly by us in the matter of his prisoners, and that their persistent denials are prompted by him. In the case of Gharib, Mr. McDouall acted through the Karguzar, who has not the same reasons as the Sheikh for avoiding the ill-will of the Turkish authorities.

His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" has gone to Koweit to bring the witnesses from there to Bussorah, if the Sheikh will allow them to come.

The Vali still continues to maintain the attitude he originally took up of leaving the whole burden of the inquiry to us, and assisting Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and his nephews as far as possible. I have learned that the contents of the Koweit depositions were communicated to Yussuf as soon as received from me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 230.

Vice-Consul McDouall to Consul Wratislaw.

(No. 49. Confidential.)

Mohammerah [undated].

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, the evidence given by Gharib of Manyhi, regarding two of the prisoners arrested at that place, the Persian original and an English translation.

The Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" saw this witness, and suggested that he be sent to Bussorah to give evidence, but his Excellency the Sardar Arfa did not approve of this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. McDOUALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 230.

Examination of Gharib, resident of Manyhi, in presence of his Excellency the Sardar Arfa, Etila-ed-Dowleh, Karguzar of Arabistan, and Mr. McDouall, Vice-Consul of His Britannic Majesty at Mohammerah.

(Translation.)

Q. What is your name?—A. Gharib.

Q. What is your father's name?—A. Abdul Kerim.

Q. Of what country are you a subject?—A. Persia.

Q. Where do you reside?—A. Manyhi.

Q. What is your native district?—A. Behleban-a-Kajeri.

Q. What do you know of these robbers arrested by Nasir?—A. Two of them (one called Rashid); I do not know the other's name.

Q. These men know you?—A. One of them, that is Rashid, is related to my wife.

Q. How did they come to your house?—A. At night we had dinner when they came; a boy brought them to the door of my house and showed them that "this is Gharib's house." I asked the boy who they were, he said "two guests have come to you." They entered the house and I gave them dinner. They asked me to ferry them across; I replied, "what is the hurry? Wait till the morning." They insisted on being put across that night. I went with them to put them across; we arrived near the bridge which is near the house of Nasir-bin-Mutrag, the Headman of the village. Nasir from the roof of his house asked "Who are you?" I replied "I am Gharib." He said "Who are those with you?" I replied, "Men of bin Brahim; one (who is Rashid) I know, but not the other." Nasir said "they are some of those." Nasir sent and took their weapons, and wanted to take them to the others. I became surety that they should sleep at my house till the morning; I should hand them over [sic]. Afterwards, we went to the house and sat down, and they drank tea and slept till early morning: I asked them what is this matter? What are these arms? Tell me your story. Rashid said "the son of Sheikh Jerrah gave us money, and said 'go to Koweit,' for they have killed my uncle, and perhaps taken Koweit." On this account we went to near Koweit and put two men ashore to go and obtain news of Koweit. As these men were a long time, we became suspicious and frightened, and [returned till we came to the beginning of the river mouth (Khor). We saw the war vessels which pursued us and cut us off from our way, till we ran the boats ashore on the mud, fled every one for himself, and in the pursuit we fought with the vessel."

Q. From where do you know that Rashid is the man of bin Brahim?—A. Yes, I know that Rashid is the man of bin Brahim, for I at first myself lived at Dawra, and was aware of it. I know for certain that he is "bin Brahim's man."

Q. Gharib! Is what you have said entirely true? Speak without fear of compulsion, speak nothing but the truth. Shall we be witnesses to you?—A. Before God all I have said is true, without increase or decrease; be witnesses, to-day is this world, to-morrow the day of judgment; this is my evidence.

The person that Gharib states is a connection of his, named Rashid, and who came to his house (and that person, in his examination, formerly acknowledged his relationship to Gharib and his going to his house, but gave his name as Jumaá) was produced among several other prisoners, and Gharib pointed him out as Rashid, and said he had known him as Rashid for some years. That person acknowledged his relationship to Gharib, and that he went to his house, but insisted that his name was Jumaá. In any case, there is no doubt as to the individual, and by external evidence and his own confession he is the man. As to his name and the difference or mistake as to it, that is a matter for separate inquiry and settlement.

In the presence of the Government, the Karguzarati and Consulate, Gharib gave the above evidence, and the final inquiry was made by us.

Seal of ETILA-ED-DOWLEH,

1st Karguzar.

Seal of W. McDOUALL,

His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

No. 231.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 18, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing a Report by the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf on the recent attempt to attack Koweit.

I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to inform you that he considers the action of the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," as reported in his despatch of the 7th September, to have been fully justified, and that he concurs in the proposal of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to approve the conduct of Lieutenant Armstrong and of the officers and men who accompanied him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 232.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 30th October, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, November 19, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of two letters received by me from Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit.

With regard to the letter, dated the 12th August, which was received in Bushire on the 27th idem, the Government of India will have learned from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah that the Sheikh's Agent has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a fortress.

With regard to the letter dated the 26th August, what Mubarek says is perfectly true. The defeat of the Ibn Saood party by the Amir of Nejd will probably result in trouble for the Sheikh of Koweit, who has everything to gain by the ultimate success of the Ibn Saood. At the same time Sheikh Mubarek must know that it is impossible for us to countenance his support of the Ibn Saood. I have always advised him to hold aloof from the quarrel which is now going on, and he has told me that he would do so, but he is so deeply interested in the matter that I am unable to believe that he has not, indirectly at any rate, assisted the Ibn Saood cause. The only reply which I could send to this portion of Mubarek's letter would be to advise him again to remain neutral, but I see no advantage in repeating the advice.

I do not know whether the Government of India could see their way to give the Sheikh the guns which he requires. I understand that he wishes to have Nordenfelt machine-guns, and he wants them for his fort at Jehara to protect Koweit against a land attack. There is no doubt that the gift would be much appreciated by the Sheikh, who, in the difficult times through which he has recently passed has, I believe, always been firm in his attachment to the British Government, and is anxious to remain so.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Sheikh Mubarak-el-Sabah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

7th Jemad-el-Awal, 1320 (August 12, 1902).

BEFORE this I had written to you about my Agent, Abdul Aziz-el-Salem that he was in imprisonment and in great hardship, and that the Turks had nothing but enmity with me.

I had also written to you about my sheep which had been lifted by Ibn Ann, Chief of Zubeir, with the help of the wicked Yusuf-el-Ibrahim's men.

All this I had communicated to you at the time.

I had written to the Wali regarding my said sheep, and had asked my Agent Abdul Aziz to see the British Consul at Bussorah with a view to obtaining his advice as to whether my letter to the Wali should be delivered. The Consul told him to deliver the letter, but I have received no reply from the Wali yet.

You know that I and my dependents and property are under your protection and shadow, and if you neglect small matters I am afraid that later on my property will suffer. The Turks are against me because I have taken refuge under you. I request you to look into this matter and do favour to your protégés.

Inclosure 3 in No. 232.

Sheikh Mubarek-el-Sabah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

21st Jemad-el-Awal, 1320 (August 26, 1902).

IBN RASHID has reached and occupied Boreida, which belongs to the Kaseem (tribe). He has also occupied Vishker, which belongs to the Vasham of Nejd, and it is probable that after a few days there will be a fight between him and Ibn Saood. If Ibn Rashid achieves a success there will be difficulties for me.

The dependents of Ibn Saood who are here wish to go and join him, and I will, if you see fit, let them go with the secret assistance I can send for Ibn Saood's support. The same will check Ibn Rashid from creating disturbances and keep him engaged.

I have before asked you both verbally and in writing that the British Government might do me the favour of giving me two or three guns, one of which may be quick-firing, because whatever strength I attain, it must be in accordance with the wish of the Government. Moreover the word gun is awe-inspiring to the Arabs. This is a thing which is necessary. The Turks have given a gun to Ibn Rashid, and it is with him now. He uses it against all Arabs who oppose him. I have referred to you what I have said, as I cannot do anything without your advice.

Inclosure 4 in No. 232.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.**Bushire, September 14, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter which His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, has addressed to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on Koweit affairs.

Inclosure 5 in No. 232.

Consul Wratlaw to Sir N. O'Connor, September 6, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 232.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.**Shiraz, September 13, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram, dated the 6th instant, on the subject of the encounter between His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" and the armed dhows in the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the telegram from the Clerk in charge of the Indo-European Telegraph Department at Fao giving me the information on which my telegram to you was based. I have received no information on the subject from the Naval authorities, but I presume that a full report has been submitted to the Naval Commander-in-chief.

2. On the 3rd September, I received a telegram from the Clerk in charge at Fao to the effect that Sheikh Jabar, Sheikh Mubarek's brother, had brought to Fao a letter addressed to me containing information that the two sons of Mahomed Sabah (Mubarek's murdered brother) with 200 armed men had left Dora the previous night with the object of attacking Koweit. He asked that a man-of-war might be sent to Koweit to warn Sheikh Mubarek. There was no man-of-war in Bushire, and I therefore directed the R.I.M. ship "Lawrence" to proceed to Koweit to carry the information received by me to Sheikh Mubarek, in order that he might be on his guard. Meanwhile it appears that the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," which was in the Shatt-el-Arab, had visited Koweit either in the usual course or in consequence of special information received as to the impending attack on Koweit. When the "Lawrence" arrived in Koweit on the morning of the 5th instant, the "Lapwing" had already left.

3. The "Lawrence" brought back from Koweit a letter to my address from Sheikh Mubarek, the translated purport of which I had the honour to forward herewith. Mubarek complains against the constant annoyance to which he is exposed at the hands of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, and he instances a recent attack on Subieh, and the intended attack by sea on Koweit, which was apparently frustrated by the action of the "Lapwing." His evident meaning is, that he, in accordance with the previous instructions which he has received from His Majesty's Government, has not proceeded to carry out reprisals for the raids to which he is constantly exposed, and he expects that we should take steps to prevent Yusuf-el-Ibrahim from annoying him. I trust that His Majesty's Government will be able to induce the Turkish Government to restrain Yusuf-el-Ibrahim from causing further annoyance to the Sheikh of Koweit. If it is proved that the recent intended attack on Koweit, which was frustrated by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," was the work of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, or others residing under Turkish protection, good grounds for serious protest would seem to exist. I am writing to the Senior Naval Officer asking him to be so good as to let me have a report of the recent occurrence.

Inclosure 7 in No. 232.

Clerk in Charge, Fao, to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

September 6, 1902.

ON "Lapwing" arriving Koweit they learned that Mubarek had already received information regarding the armed buglas. Captain Armstrong was told they were in the Khor Abdulla, which place he proceeded, where he saw several buglas, two of which refused to be searched—they were flying no flag, and were crowded with armed Arabs, and sailed away, trying to come up the Shatt-el-Arab—the "Lapwing" managed to get between them and the river. They then sailed towards the Bahmashir, landing mid-way between the rivers and beaching their buglas. Captain Armstrong with three or four boats went after them with forty bluejackets, but were fired on from the shore by the Arabs, who, Captain Armstrong estimates at 150; he returned their fire, and thinks he has killed about six Arabs; one bluejacket was killed and two slightly wounded, and several had narrow escapes, bullets having passed through their clothing and helmets. Captain Armstrong's boat, which was nearest the shore, was riddled with bullets. The Arabs' fire was very straight. Captain Armstrong captured the buglas, in which there are few things and articles of clothing. He tried to get permission to bury body here, but was disallowed, the Bussorah authorities having to get orders from Constantinople. He proceeded up the river to Mohammerah this morning to bury the body, after which he steams to Bussorah.

Inclosure 8 in No. 232.

Sheikh Mubarek-el-Sabah to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

1st Jemad-el-Thani, 1320 (September 5, 1902).

ON the 22nd Jemad-el-Awal (27th August last) Khaled-bin-Aun, resident of Zubeir, in conjunction with Shaki (ruffian) Yusuf-el-Ibrahim's men, went from Zubeir to Sefwan, and seized three mares and five camels, which a merchant had purchased from the Aneiza tribe for merchants on our side. They also took nine houses (tents?) belonging to my tribesmen, together with their animals and property, and then returned to Zubeir.

On the 30th August last, Shaki Yusuf got ready Mubarek-el-Azbi and the sons of Mahomed (Sabah) at Zubeir with 100 camels and 20 horses, with a view to attack my flocks at Jehara and Subbiya. They came near Jehara but did not attack it, and went to Subbiya. On Monday morning they reached there, attacked the Subbiya people, and wounded them with bullets. The Subbiya people repelled the attack, and drove away Mubarak-el-Azbi and his following, who returned to Zubeir.

Furthermore Shaki Yusuf engaged at Doura 200 men from Bussorah and its environs and sent them in ships with the sons of Mahomed (el-Sabah). On Wednesday, eight hours after sunrise, they arrived at Felika and anchored there, waiting for nightfall when they wanted to attack us suddenly. I became aware of this. A man-of-war came. She had received the information at Fao, and when she arrived, which was at four hours after sunset, they (the boats) gave up the idea of attacking us. It is possible they came to this conclusion after seeing the man-of-war. All these preparations were made in the Villayet of Bussorah itself, and from Doura and Zubeir. Shaki Yusuf is now with them (the Turks) in Bussorah.

* Moreover, I sit quiet (but as a result) I find ill-treatment at the hands of the Turks. My brother Jabir had with him twenty men for the protection of my dates as usual; such is the custom with all date-garden owners. The Bussorah Government has prohibited these men, and has ordered their return to Koweit. Again, with regard to Koweit boats which used to call at Bussorah and its dependencies, the Turks have ordered that when any of such boats want to load dates at Fao and its dependencies, they should go up to Bussorah (first), do quarantine there, and then return to Fao and its dependencies for their cargo. This is all due to their spite and their wish to injure me.

I have also heard that Shaki Yusuf and the sons of Mahomed (el-Sabah) wish to attack my property in Bussorah. I am under your protection and my property and affairs are in that of the British Government. I sit quiet, but I find my affairs are getting damaged. I am writing to you this, and have full hopes that you will not like even a slight injury overtaking me. At present great injuries are being done to me and my people. I and my people are tired of the troubles which the Turks cause; they have Shaki Yusuf-el-Ibrahim near them, and he creates all these troubles and engages armed men from Doura and Zubeir. You will not agree to these sorts of troubles befalling me. I have, therefore, sent Haji Ali-bin-Ghulam to you and hope to receive pleasing news and see all the troubles put a stop to.

Inclosure 9 in No. 232.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.**Bushire, September 22, 1902.*

WITH reference to this Office letter, dated the 13th instant, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the telegrams which His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, has dispatched to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the encounter between His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" and armed dhows in Khor Abdolla above Koweit.

Inclosure 10 in No. 232.

Telegrams Nos. 57 to 62 from Consul Wratistlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 11 in No. 232.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton, October 8, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 12 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Assistant Political Agent at Bahrein, and to say that, in my opinion, it is quite probable that the information, which, it is said, has been conveyed to Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit, emanated from the Russian Consulate in Bushire.

I have recently heard on reliable authority that the Acting Russian Consul-General, who is now in Shiraz, has been trying to induce certain Russian subjects, who buy skins in Persia for the Russian market, to open up a business at Koweit, and has promised them to send them a man of his own to look after their interests if they go to Koweit.

When I visit Koweit in the course of the coming cold weather, I will find out from the Sheikh if the information referred to has reached him from Najaf-bin-Ghalib.

Inclosure 13 in No. 232.

Mr. Gaskin to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Secret.)

Bahrein, September 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Koweit News Agent writes confidentially to the effect that Najaf-bin-Ghalib, a well-known Arab trader in Bushire, has written to his brother Haji Muhammad-bin-Taki-bin-Ghalib at Koweit to privately inform Sheikh Mubarek that information has come from Constantinople to the effect that the Turkish Government have offered the British Government some territory adjoining Egypt on the understanding that His Majesty's Government will withdraw their protection over Koweit, and the reply of His Majesty's Government to the proposal has not yet been disclosed.

The News Agent further states that Najaf is on intimate terms with the Russian Vice-Consul at Bushire, and whenever he writes to his brother he usually requests him to convey to Sheikh Mubarek the Russian Vice-Consul's compliments, and offers to give his assistance whenever the Sheikh requires it. The News Agent also remarks that, though Sheikh Mubarek may not credit Najaf's report, it will, however, make him anxious.

The Russians understand the Mahomedan character and their distrust of Christians generally, and, if the report is true, they have chosen the most effective means of sowing the seed of suspicion in Sheikh Mubarek's mind, and probably they will send further distorted news periodically through the same source with a view to annihilate all trust in our Government. I would venture to suggest that the first opportunity be taken to disabuse Sheikh Mubarek's mind as regards our intentions referring to Koweit.

Inclosure 14 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 21, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 13th instant on the subject of the recent encounter of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" with armed dhows near the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab, I have the honour to forward copy of a despatch, dated the 6th idem, addressed to me by His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerab. There appears to be little doubt that the dhows were out at sea with the intention of attacking either

[1518]

2 P

Koweit itself or other part of Koweit territory, and that the expedition emanated from Dorah, and was instigated by Sheikh Yusuf-el-Ibrahim. Whether the sons of Muhammad-bin-Sabah were with the expedition I have not yet learnt for certain, but it seems probable that they were. It would appear that His Majesty's Government have good grounds for making strong representations to the Turkish Government on account of this incident. The Turkish authorities could easily, if they cared to do so, restrain Sheikh Yusuf, and it seems probable that he is receiving secret encouragement at their hands.

Inclosure 15 in No. 232.

Vice-Consul McDouall to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Mohammerah, September 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" arrived here this afternoon with two captured "bums" in tow. Her Commander informs me that, on arriving at Fao on the 3rd instant, he received information of an intended attack on Koweit by land and sea. He proceeded there and found Sheikh Mubarek warned and fully prepared, and heard that two suspicious vessels had been seen.

Next morning he proceeded to search for the dhows, and anchored in Khor Abdulla, and had boats out cruising. Yesterday morning when all but the cutter had returned, the cutter signalled for assistance. Captain Armstrong with all boats armed went to her assistance. He learned that the cutter had hailed two dhows, who had threatened to fire if the cutter came alongside, and were crowded with armed men. The boats pursued and cut the dhows off from the Turkish side. They then made for the channel leading from Gusba to the Bahmashir and ran the dhows ashore, and, deserting them, waded to firm ground, where they took cover in the long grass. The leading boat got on the mud and became unmanageable, a strong tide sweeping her up the creek; Captain Armstrong was in this boat. When about 100 yards off the Arabs opened a heavy fire, which was returned by all boats. One seaman was killed and two wounded. The Arab loss is unknown, but believed to be eight or ten. The Arabs retreated, and Captain Armstrong succeeded in floating the two "bums," and then returned to his ship. At Fao he was told the "bums" belonged to Sheikh Yusuf-bin-Brahim's village, Dawra. They contained many small bags of cartridges, both French and English, and several pairs of saddle-bags, in one of which was a seal inscribed Ahmed-bin-Muhammad.

It is estimated that there were 150 men in the two "bums."

After burying the dead man this evening and visiting the Sardar Arfa, the "Lapwing" will proceed to-morrow to Bussorah to confer with His Majesty's Consul there.

Inclosure 16 in No. 232.

Extract from the Diary of the Political Residency in the Persian Gulf for the week ending September 29, 1902.

6. *Bahrein, September 19, 1902.*—It is reported on good authority that the Amir of Nejd encamped within two marches of Riadh a fortnight ago.

7. *September 20.*—The Chief of Katr has mentioned in a letter to the Kazi of Bahrein that he has recently written to the Amir of Nejd advising him not to attack Riadh, but to wait for another month when he hopes to visit the two belligerent Chiefs, and make peace between them.

Inclosure 17 in No. 232.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India, October 14, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 18 in No. 232.

Rear-Admiral Drury to Government of India.

Trincomalee, October 3, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, a copy of a Report* by the Lieutenant-Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," relative to the capture of two dhows by that ship, these dhows having intended to participate in an attack on Koweit; also a copy of my remarks and suggestions to the Admiralty on the subject.

Inclosure 19 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong to Rear-Admiral Drury, September 7, 1902.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 20 in No. 232.

Rear-Admiral Drury to Admiralty.

Trincomalee, October 3, 1902.

WITH reference to "Lapwing's" letter of the 7th ultimo forwarded direct to Admiralty, the duplicate of which I have just received, be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have approved of the action taken by the officer commanding His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" on the 5th September last.

It is asserted that an influential Arab organised, on Turkish territory, a plot for the murder of Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit, and that the dhows, filled with armed men, were to proceed to a certain point near Koweit, act in conjunction with a land force of Arabs, and surprise the Sheikh by a night attack with the object of killing him and then to return to their boats and disappear.

Whatever was the object of the two armed dhows it was entirely upset by the promptitude of the "Lapwing," and I consider Lieutenant-Commander Armstrong is to be highly commended.

Had Sheikh Mubarek on the night in question been murdered in the manner it is suggested, it would undoubtedly have led to inconvenient complication in the Persian Gulf.

The loss of Daly, able seaman, is to be deeply regretted. I have directed that the dhows be retained for the present, and would suggest with reference to Article 304 of the Manual of Naval Prize Law that I may receive permission for them to be destroyed. If there is no diplomatic or other objection, I would propose that they be burnt in the Shatt-el-Arab, near Dura (to which port they belonged) for the sake of example and a warning against piratical acts, for the suppression of which we are acting in co-operation with the Turkish authorities.

I should like to further bring to their Lordships' notice the names of Sub-Lieutenant Rowbotham, Mr. Vugler, Gunner, and the men mentioned by Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong for their creditable and gallant services, and also the Telegraph Superintendent at Fao, Mr. Lovell, whose prompt action in informing the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" of the proposed attack was no doubt the cause of Koweit not being assaulted, whatever the result might have been.

The "Cossack" was at Koweit on the 16th September collecting evidence, and I expect to hear the result shortly, and will communicate the same for the information of their Lordships.

* Already received.

Inclosure 21 in No. 232.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, October 17, 1902.

YOUR letter of 6th September. Koweit.

Mubarek's request for guns cannot be met, but provided he complies with injunctions conveyed in my telegram of the 5th December, 1901, His Majesty's Government will charge themselves with defence of Koweit district which, however, must be clearly defined as the district adjoining or close to Bay of Koweit. Please communicate terms of this message to Sheikh.

Inclosure 22 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Shiraz, September 25, 1902.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 21st September, on the subject of the "Lapwing" incident, I have the honour to forward copy of a despatch No. 65, dated the 13th idem, to my address from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah.

From this despatch and from the telegrams on the subject transmitted by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to the Ambassador at Constantinople, copies of which have been forwarded to the Government of India, it appears to be conclusively proved that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim organised the expedition against Koweit which was frustrated by the action of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing." I venture to suggest that, if the Turkish Government does not now take steps to put a stop to the said Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim's enterprises against Koweit, it might be advisable for His Majesty's Government to reconsider its decision regarding the occupation by the Turks of Um Kasr and Boobyah.

Inclosure 23 in No. 232.

*Vice-Consul McDouall to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.**Mohammerah, September 13, 1902.*

IN continuation of my letter of the 6th instant I have the honour to report that, on the evening of the 5th, three men came to Manyuhi, which is opposite Dawra, and asked to be ferried across, they were told to leave their rifles with the guard, and in the morning they would be ferried across. During the night they fled leaving their rifles. Meantime, news had reached the village of the fight with the "Lapwing's" boats. Later, a watchman saw some men in the date gardens who said they had lost their way, he conducted them into the "Mudif" (village meeting house) and they were surrounded and disarmed. They said they had been to a friendly meeting to decide a tribal dispute, and asked why they were arrested and the three men who had been in the fight allowed to escape. They were brought to Failia and are now in prison there. Their names, as taken by the Sardar Arfa's Secretary, are given on the inclosed list,* which has been sent to the Wali of Bussorah. The villages at which they reside are all situated on the Turkish side of the river and near Bussorah.

So far they have refused to make any confession. It is proposed that, on the return of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" in a day or two, they should be interrogated one by one in the presence of Captain Armstrong, the Karguzar and myself.

The man Ahmed-el-Asusi, whose seal was captured, is well known as being in the employ of Bin Ibrahim.

I have seen the fifteen captured rifles, with the exception of three or four, all are perfectly new, but stained with mud and water. Most of them are of Birmingham make.

The Sardar Arfa says it is useless trying to put a stop to piracy as long as Bin Ibrahim is not prevented from making these naval expeditions. If he were banished from these parts, it would be a great step towards securing the safety of the river.

* Not sent.—C. A. KEMBALL.

The Karguzar appears to be fully aware of the necessity of proving that the miscreants came from Turkey in order to clear Persia of responsibility.

I am keeping His Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, fully informed of all the news obtained here on this subject.

Inclosure 24 in No. 232.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.**Shiraz, September 28, 1902.*

IN continuation of my letter dated the 25th instant, on the subject of the recent encounter of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" with armed dhows in the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter addressed to me by Commander Cartwright, Senior Naval Officer in the Gulf, giving cover to the Report submitted by the Commander of the "Lapwing."

2. Commander Armstrong's energetic action is, in my opinion, very satisfactory, and it is probable that the result will be to check piracies in the vicinity of the Shatt-el-Arab for some time to come.

Inclosure 25 in No. 232.

*Commander Cartwright to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.**Bushire, September 19, 1902.*

IN reply to your letter [?date] of 1902, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the Report I have received from the Captain of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing."

2. I saw Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong of the "Lapwing" on the 12th instant, and he reported that up to that date he had been unable to obtain direct evidence against Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, although Sheikh Khazal has taken some of the crew of the dhows prisoners. The Wali of Bussorah, in consequence, was trying to make out that it was only a case of ordinary river piracy.

3. After communicating with the "Lapwing" I proceeded to Koweit, and Sheikh Mubarek was able to produce four men who were at Dawra on the 2nd September, and saw the expedition start from that place. The men to the number of about 250 came from Yusuf's house and embarked in two dhows, Yusuf himself being in attendance until they sailed. The names of some of the principal men recognized were—Asbi (Muhammad-bin-Subbar's son), Ahmed-bin-Jara-bin-Subbar, Mundhar, Serai, and Ahmed-bin-Muhammad Assusi.

4. The men all swore to the truth of their statements before the Kazi (priest), as also three other men who swore that the dhows were the property of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim. Sheikh Mubarek was very averse to letting the men go to Bussorah to give evidence, as he feared the Turks would either secure them or find some means to prevent them giving their evidence.

No. 233.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 506.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 18, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 122 of the 8th instant I have the honour to report that the question of the status of the Koweitlis has been raised by the Wali of Bussorah in his correspondence with His Majesty's Consul.

I have the honour to transmit herewith paraphrases of the telegram in which Mr. Wratislaw reports the incident, and of my reply to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 233.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, November 10, 1902.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 3rd instant I have to report that the Vali having in an official communication to me spoken of the witnesses from Koweit as "Ottoman subjects," in my reply I termed them "Subjects of the Sheikh of Koweit."

A subsequent letter from the Vali requests me to correct the phrase, inasmuch as all the inhabitants of Koweit are subjects of the Porte, Koweit being a province of the Ottoman Empire, and the Sheikh being a Kaimakam.

In answering his Excellency, I propose to say simply that I see nothing in my letter that requires alteration.

Inclosure 2 in No. 233.

Sir N. O'Connor to Consul Wratislaw.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, November 12, 1902.

I APPROVE the answer which you propose in your telegram No. 72.

(Confidential.)

One of my reasons for not pressing the Porte to assent to your presence while the evidence was being taken was to avoid for the present raising the question of the status of the inhabitants of Koweit.

The Porte has frequently been informed that we will not permit any interference with the Sheikh of Koweit, and I am therefore inclined to think that the Vali is acting on his own responsibility in raising the point.

No. 234.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 508.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the paraphrase of a telegram received yesterday from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah.

Mr. Wratislaw reports that the partizans of the Emir of Nejd are gathering an armed force, and that 200 men started a few days ago from Zobeir in the direction of Sefwan on a raiding and plundering expedition against the tribes under the protection of the Sheikh of Koweit. He adds that the Vali is probably cognizant of these proceedings, and that if they are not stopped they will entail untoward results.

I sent Mr. Block to the Porte in the afternoon to communicate the substance of this telegram to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He was instructed to press the Minister to have the Vali cautioned very seriously and told to put a stop to these raids, and he was to remind his Excellency of the assurances given to His Majesty's Government to respect the *status quo* of Koweit, and that His Majesty's Government would not allow an attack upon that place.

Mr. Block was also instructed to warn his Excellency that such expeditions would probably land the Ottoman Government in serious difficulties sooner or later, and to state that we were now collecting information respecting the proposed raid organized by Yusuf Ibrahim and the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews residing in Ottoman territory; that there was strong presumptive evidence of the Vali's knowledge and tacit approval of this expedition, and that this presumption would be greatly strengthened by the Zobeir incident if not promptly suppressed by the Imperial Government.

Mr. Block added that I reserved the remarks and demands I might later have to make in connection with the Koweit expedition and its fatal consequence in the loss of life and the wounding of British sailors, but that, in the meantime, it was obviously the duty as well as the interest of the Imperial Government at once to check the dangerous energy of the Vali of Bussorah.

Tewfik Pasha replied that he would immediately report my representations to the Grand Vizier, and that he expected inquiries would be at once addressed to the Bussorah authorities, and orders given in the desired sense.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have learnt that, under instructions from the Grand Vizier, the Minister of the Interior has telegraphed orders to the Vali of Bussorah to report as to the intention of the Arabs to make an incursion into the territory of the Sheikh, and has informed him that it is the duty of the Imperial Government to prevent any such occurrence. The Vali is therefore instructed to take measures to do so.

N. R. O'C.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, November 18, 1902.

ARMED parties are constantly being collected by the partizans of the Emir of Nejd at Zobeir, and are making raids into the desert with the intention presumably of plundering the tribes under the protection of the Sheikh of Koweit.

On the 16th instant a band of more than 200 started in the direction of Sefwan, but up till now I have no news of the result. Unless such proceedings are stopped, they may lead to untoward results. The Vali is, of course, aware of what is going on, but my remonstrances with him appear to be almost useless.

No. 235.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 515.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 26, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 508 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received a message, through Mr. Block, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Vali of Bussorah, in replying to the telegram sent him by the Grand Vizier, denies the allegation of the intended expedition against Koweit which is being prepared at Zobeir. The Vali declares that tranquillity reigns throughout his province, but that, nevertheless, the authorities had taken the necessary measures to prevent any disturbance of the peace by sea or land.

I have informed Mr. Wratislaw of the subject of Tewfik Pasha's communication, which is, as your Lordship will observe, at variance with the definite statements in his report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 235*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 360.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 6, 1902.

I DULY received your Excellency's despatch No. 508 of the 20th ultimo, reporting that, in consequence of information received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah as to projected attacks on the tribes under the Sheikh of Koweit, you had addressed serious representations to the Turkish Government on the subject, and that instructions had been sent to the Vali of Bussorah to prevent such raids.

Your Excellency's action in the matter is approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Consul Wratistlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 8.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, November 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 31st ultimo, I wrote a letter, copy of which is inclosed herewith, to the Vali of Bussorah, informing him that the "Lapwing" had brought up five witnesses from Koweit in place of those whose depositions were previously taken by the Commander of the "Cossack," and who had since left the place, and requesting his Excellency to make arrangements for their examination in such a manner as would enable the Commander of the "Lapwing" to fulfil his promise to Sheikh Mubarek that he would not let these witnesses out of his sight. Immediately after dispatching this letter, I called on the Vali with Captain Armstrong to discuss the matter, and informed his Excellency that the only methods I could think of were either for the Mustantik to examine the witnesses on board the "Lapwing" or for the Commander to accompany them to the Court, be present during their examination, and escort them back when it was over. The Vali at once replied that he could not entertain either of these proposals for a moment. What business had Mubarek (who, he complained, had left the two telegrams sent him about the other witnesses unanswered, and had not communicated at all about the second lot) to impose such conditions? Witnesses were perfectly safe from molestation in all Turkish Courts, and he could not understand their being any anxiety on their account. I replied that I was not in the Sheikh's confidence, but I understood that both he and the Sheikh of Mohammerah (who raised similar difficulties about sending two of his subjects to Bussorah to depose in this matter) appeared to think that their men might be exposed not only to the exaggerated detention which in Turkey often made the lot of witnesses in criminal cases little more enviable than that of the accused, but also to attempts at intimidation and possibly assassination on the part of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim. His Excellency laughed this suggestion to scorn, but I reminded him of incidents which had occurred in Bussorah and which showed conclusively how easy it was for a man of great local influence like Yusuf to put out of his way persons who thwarted him. The Vali replied that this was in the time of his predecessor, and we then turned to other subjects.

Subsequently I received an official reply to my letter, of which I inclose a translation, and yesterday I took the depositions of the five witnesses at the Consulate. They all swore on the Koran to the truth of their statements, and the manner in which they gave their evidence impressed me very favourably. From the inclosed translations your Excellency will perceive that four of these men were on board a small Koweit dhow which was anchored off Dora Creek the evening that the expedition sailed, and saw the armed men go on board the dhows and also saw and heard Yusuf-el-Ibrahim see them off.

They left at once for Koweit to inform the Sheikh, but found that the news had preceded them.

The fifth witness was for two years captain of one of the dhows captured by the "Lapwing," and recognized her unhesitatingly as being one which had belonged to Yusuf-el-Ibrahim.

I inquired of these witnesses whether they knew an Ahmed-bin-Mohammed As'ousi, whose seal was found on one of the captured dhows in a small bag with other trifles, including a few rupees. They all replied that he was a Nokhada in the service of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, and left Koweit when his master broke with Mubarek in 1896. This entirely agrees with private information I have obtained from other sources, and I also learn that Ahmed-bin-Mohammed As'ousi was one of the two men who landed at night near Koweit from the dhows to obtain information, and who were left behind. This would account for his bag (the native equivalent for a purse) being left on board. He is well known locally as being a confidential servant of Yusuf's, and yet the Vali has the effrontery to assure me that he has made active inquiries concerning him and can learn nothing of any man of that name except that he hears there are people of that name at Koweit.

I am quite hopeless of being able to procure a conviction against Yusuf-el-Ibrahim and the Sheikh's nephews, should we force the matter into the Criminal Court. No local witness will come forward for fear of Yusuf and the Vali; and no

witnesses from outside will appear except under conditions which we are unable to guarantee.

Doubtless the Vali knows this perfectly well, and it is for this reason that he shelters himself behind the judicial authorities and refuses to stir a finger administratively. I trust, however, that I have supplied your Excellency with sufficient evidence to support a diplomatic demand for the exile from these parts of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, Khalid-es-Sabah, and Hamoud-es-Sabah. As I have already had the honour to state, Koweit will never be safe so long as they remain in these regions; and a good precedent exists for their being sent away from it. In 1897, after Yusuf's abortive attack on Koweit by sea, the Porte did not hesitate to exile him without trial, and it was only last year, at the request of Ibin Reshid, that he was allowed to return.

I should correct a mistake I made in my telegram No. 62 of the 14th September to your Excellency. It was not Khalid, son of Sheikh Mohammed-es-Sabah who was on board the dhows, but his cousin, Hamoud, son of Jerrah-Khalid, has been engaged all the summer in raiding Koweit flocks from Zobeir along with Ibin Reshid's agent, Khalid Elown.

I inclose a copy of my final communication to the Vali forwarding copy of the depositions, and have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 236.

Consul Wratistlaw to Mustafa Nouri Pasha.

Sir,

Bussorah, October 31, 1902.

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter of the 25th September (8th October), I have the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" proceeded to Koweit in order, if possible, to bring to Bussorah the witnesses referred to. He was, however, informed by Sheikh Mubarek that they were not at that time in Koweit. He has, therefore, brought in place of them five other witnesses, viz.: Abdullah-bin-Nesf, Salih-bin-Mohammed, Ali-bin-Ahmed Khalaf, Edan-bin-Metar, and Abdullah-el-Foderi, who are able to give similar evidence concerning the two dhows.

As Sheikh Mubarek only allowed these witnesses to leave Koweit on condition that the Captain of the "Lapwing" should not let them out of his sight while in Bussorah, and should take them back to Koweit as soon as they had given their evidence, I beg that your Excellency will make such arrangements for their examination as will fulfil these conditions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 236.

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Consul Wratistlaw.

(Translation.)

Bussorah, October 21 (November 3), 1902.

YOUR letter of the 31st October last (in which it was stated that it appeared from Kaïmakam Mubarek Pasha's declaration that the witnesses wanted by the Law Courts were away from Koweit and that the Nokhada Abdullah and his comrades had been brought therefrom in their place, and during their stay in Bussorah were to be kept under the eye of the Captain of the "Lapwing") was referred to the Assistant Public Prosecutor, who made a Minute to the effect that naturally the competent section would extend all such favours and permissions as the law allows to witnesses able to bring the truth to light; but that, nevertheless, the law re summons and audition of witnesses like these of Ottoman nationality in the Ottoman Courts do not admit of the rules and conditions stipulated in your letter, and if the witnesses appear in the Istintak Court their information will be taken down in the usual way in the presence of the Mustantik and the Clerk of the Court, and, provided no legal impediment arises, they will, of course, be let free on completion of their

depositions; and on arrival at the Court of Instruction the requirements of the law will be fulfilled, whereas, should they fail to come, in order to protect the investigation from hindrance, a summons will be issued for them in due course.

Inclosure 3 in No. 236.

Consul Wratislaw to Mustafa Nouri Pasha.

Sir,

Bussorah, November 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the sworn depositions of Ali-bin-Ahmed Khalaf, Edan-bin-Metar, Abdullah-el-Foderi, Abdullah-bin-Nesf, and Salih-bin-Mohammed Malallah, inhabitants of Koweit and subjects of Sheikh Mubarek, which I have taken myself, as your Excellency, in your letter of the 21st October (3rd November) declined to allow them to be given before the Mustantik in the presence of the Commander of the "Lapwing."

If any doubt previously existed in your Excellency's mind concerning the complicity of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim in the expedition from Dora against Koweit which encountered His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," these depositions will, I am confident, dissipate it.

In forwarding my report on the whole incident to His Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I regret that I shall be unable to state that I have received any assistance in the matter from the Local Government, which seems to have considered it its duty to prevent the truth coming to light.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 4 in No. 236.

Depositions of Abdulla-bin-Nasf and others.

Examination of Abdulla-bin-Nasf.

Q. WHAT is your name?—A. Abdullah.

Q. What is your father's name?—A. Nasf-bin-Rashid.

Q. Where do you reside?—A. Koweit.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. Nacoda (captain).

Q. Have you been in the Shatt-el-Arab lately?—A. Yes. During the summer I went to Dora, but my intention was to go to Mohammerah.

Q. In what craft did you go; what was its name?—A. In my boum; it has no name.

Q. On what date did you arrive at Dora?—A. On the evening of Tuesday, the 27th Jemad-ul-Ewel; as there was an ebb tide and a north-easter I couldn't get further.

Q. Did you notice anything that night?—About evening I perceived two "boums" (small dhows) at anchor in the mouth of the Dora Creek, and after dinner I saw many armed men embark in them and leave, with a small boat, and after they had proceeded a short distance I heard the man in the small boat say to them: "God be with you." By his voice and features I recognized him as Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Q. Did you know Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim previously?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you then do?—A. As I had suspicions of these "boums" I at once weighed anchor and proceeded to Menyouhi* by night. In the morning we at once went to Félijé† in order to inform the Sheikh Moubarek, but we found that Jabir at Fao‡ had already informed him.

Q. Have you seen the dhows since then?—A. Yes; made fast to the stern of the British man-of-war "Lapwing."

Q. How do you know them?—A. By their build.

Q. Where were they built?—A. In Koweit; one twenty, the other fourteen years ago.

* On Persian bank, a little below Dora.

† Island near Koweit.

‡ Moubarek's brother at Fao.

Q. Do you know who are the owners?—A. They were built to the orders of Yusuf, and I am ready to affirm this by oath on the Koran.

Q. Did you recognize any one on the "boums"?—No one.

Q. Do you know Ahmed-bin-Mohammed-el-As'ousi?—Yes; he is one of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim's captains; he left Koweit at the same time as Yusuf.

My deposition has been read over to me, and I swear that I have told nothing but the truth by oath on the Koran.

(Seal of Abdulla-bin-Nasf.)

(Seal of British Consul, Ch. Wratislaw.)

5 Shaban, 1320 (November 6, 1902).

Examination of Salih-bin-Mohammed Malallah.

Q. What is your name?—A. Salih.

Q. What is your father's name?—A. Mohammed-bin-Malallah.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. Helmsman on board of Abdulla-bin-Nasf's "boum."

Q. Where do you live?—A. Koweit.

Q. Have you come to the Shatt-el-Arab recently?—A. Yes; we came to Dora-bin-Ibrahim on the evening of Tuesday, the 27th Jemadi-ul-Ewel, 1320.

Q. Did you see anything there?—A. Yes; on anchoring at Dora we observed two "boums" at anchor at the mouth of the Dora Creek, and about dark saw a number of armed men embarking on them; they then left the creek and with them a small boat. After they had gone a short way I heard a man in the boat say to the "boums": "God be with you." By the voice I recognized that it was Yusuf-el-Ibrahim.

Q. Did you know Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim previously to this?—A. Yes; I know Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim perfectly.

Q. What did you do after the "boums" left Dora?—A. We weighed anchor and proceeded towards Menyouni, and next morning went on at once to Félijé to inform Sheikh Moubarek, but we ascertained that he had got the news from Fao.

Q. Do you know a man called Ahmed-bin-Mohammed-el-As'ousi?—Yes.

Q. Who is he and what is his occupation?—A. He is a captain of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim's.

This deposition is correct, and I take oath thereto on the Koran.

(Seal of Salih-bin-Mohammed Malallah.)

(Seal of British Consul, Ch. Wratislaw.)

5 Shaban, 1320 (November 6, 1902).

Examination of Ali-bin-Ahmed el Khalaf.

Q. What is your name?—A. Ali.

Q. What is your father's name?—A. Ahmed-el-Khalaf.

Q. What is your vocation?—A. Seaman.

Q. Have you been in the Shatt-el-Arab lately?—A. Yes; I came as seaman in the "boum" of Abdulla-bin-Nasf. Last summer we left Koweit on a Saturday, and arrived at Dora on a Tuesday evening.

Q. Did you see anything while at Dora?—A. When we arrived at Dora I observed two "boums" at anchor at the mouth of the Dora Creek; after dark I saw a number of armed men, who embarked in the "boums," and left the creek, together with a small boat. When they had gone a short way I heard a man in the boat say to them, "God be with you." By the voice I knew it was Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Q. Did you know Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim previously?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you do when the "boums" had sailed?—A. We weighed anchor at once and proceeded to Menyouni; about dawn we went on immediately to Félijé to inform Sheikh Moubarek of what we had witnessed, but we found that he had already received the news from Jabr in Fao.

Q. Do you know the "boums" now fastened to the British man-of-war "Lapwing"?—A. Yes; they are the "boums" we saw at anchor in Dora.

Q. To whom do they belong?—A. They belong to Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Q. How do you know that they belong to Yusuf?—A. By their build; they were built in Koweit.

Q. Do you know one Ahmed Mohammed-bin-As'ousi?—A. Yes.

Q. What is his occupation?—A. He is captain of one of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim's sailing-vessels.

My deposition has been read over to me, and I swear by the Koran that I have stated nothing but the truth.

(Mark of Ali-bin-Ahmed el Khalaf.)

(Seal of British Consul, Ch. Wratishlaw.)

5 Shaban, 1320 (November 6, 1902).

Examination of 'Eydan-bin-Matr.

Q. What is your name?—A. 'Eydan.

Q. What is your father's name?—A. Matr-bin-Abdullah.

Q. Where do you live?—A. Koweit.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. Captain serving on the pearl fisheries.*

Q. Have you been in the Shatt-el-Arab lately?—A. I arrived there in the summer on the "bom" of Abdullah-bin-Nasf for business in Mohammerah.

Q. When did you arrive in the Shatt?—A. We arrived in Dora on the evening of Tuesday, the 27th Jemadi-ul-Ewel.

Q. Did you notice anything in the night?—A. Towards evening I observed two "boums" at the mouth of the Dora Creek, and after dinner I saw a number of men embarking on them; they left the creek together with a small boat. After they had started I saw the small "bellum" leave the "boums," and a man in the "bellum" say to them, "God be with you." By his voice and features I recognized him as Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Q. How did you recognize his features in the dark?—A. He passed within twenty cubits of our "bom."

Q. Did you know Yusuf before?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you then do?—A. After the "boums" had left we weighed anchor, and proceeded at once by night to Menyouthi; at towards morning proceeded at once for Féljé to inform Sheikh Mubarek, but we discovered that he had already got the news from Jabr at Pao.

Q. Do you know the "boums" fastened to the British man-of-war "Lapwing"?—A. Yes.

Q. Are the "boums" you saw at the mouth of the Dora Creek the same as these?—A. Yes.

Q. Who are the owners?—A. Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Q. Do you know one Ahmed-bin-Mohammed-el-As'ousi?—A. Yes; I know him; he is a captain of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim's.

This deposition has been read over to me, and I take oath thereto on the Koran that I have told nothing but the truth.

(Mark of 'Eydan-bin-Matr.)

(Seal of British Consul, Ch. Wratishlaw.)

5 Shaban, 1320 (November 6, 1902).

Examination of Abdullah-el-Fodri.

Q. What is your name?—A. Abdullah.

Q. What is your father's name?—A. Matr-el-Fodri.

Q. Where do you live?—A. Koweit.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. Captain of a sailing-vessel.

* February to May annually.

Q. Do you know the "boums" fastened to the British man-of-war "Lapwing"?—A. Yes.

Q. How do you know them?—A. I was captain of one of them for two years.

Q. In which?—A. In the one called "Seehan."

Q. How do you know it?—A. I was captain, and embarked on it ten years ago, and I left it eight years ago.

Q. Who is the owner?—A. Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Q. Did you receive pay from Yusuf?—A. Yes; I received wages from him.

Q. How do you know the "bom"?—A. As I served on it for two years I am absolutely certain that this is the very "bom" in which I served.

I hereby swear on the Koran that I have told nothing but the truth.

(Mark of Abdullah-el-Fodri.)

(Seal of British Consul, Ch. Wratishlaw.)

5 Shaban, 1320 (November 6, 1902).

No. 237.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 529.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 2, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 107 of the 23rd October last and to my despatch No. 505 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I spoke to Tewfik Pasha yesterday to the following effect in regard to Yusuf Ibrahim's attempted raid upon Koweit early in the month of September last.

I said I had received a voluminous mass of evidence taken on board the "Lapwing" after the Vali of Bussorah had refused either to send a Turkish Magistrate on board to take the depositions of the witnesses who had been brought from Koweit, or to allow the Consul and Commander of the "Lapwing" to be present in Court while the depositions were being taken.

I said that I had not yet waded through these reports, but that I feared when I did so, there was little doubt that they would show the direct complicity of Yusuf Ibrahim and of the Sheikh of Koweit's two nephews, and, possibly, also the complicity of the Vali, of whose connivance in the affair we had already ground for reasonable suspicion.

I urged upon his Excellency that the Ottoman Government should themselves take the initiative of punishing Yusuf Ibrahim and the Sheikh's nephews by removing them from Bussorah, and by otherwise letting them understand that Turkish soil could not be made use of for organizing hostile expeditions against the Sheikh of Koweit. There was the more reason for taking this course that the Imperial Government had formally recognized the *status quo* of Koweit, and given assurances that no attack was contemplated or would be made upon his territory. I added that if the Ottoman Government did nothing in the sense indicated of its own accord, the time would probably come when I should be instructed to ask for more serious reparation, seeing that the lives of some British sailors had been sacrificed in frustrating a filibustering expedition organized upon Ottoman territory.

Tewfik Pasha gave me to understand, as is his wont, that he agreed with my observations that he would refer the matter to the Grand Vizier, and that as soon as a decision was taken he would not fail to communicate it to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 238.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 367.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 529 of the 2nd instant, reporting that at an interview with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the

previous day, you had urged that steps should be taken by the Turkish Government to punish Yussuf Ibrahim and the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit for the recent attempted raid on that place.

The language which you held to Tewfik Pasha, as reported in your despatch, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 239.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th December, relative to the renewal of hostilities between Ibn Rashid and Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud.

India Office, December 11, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 239.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 11, 1902.

It is reported that, after severe fighting, Ibn Rashid has been defeated by Bin Saoud at Dillum, and has fled to Gharsil, with a loss of his camp and baggage, and of 250 killed, including two important Sheikhs. Report was received from Sheikh Mubarak on (? 18th November) through Resident, Persian Gulf, and Assistant Political Agent at Bahrein, on the 17th November.

No. 240.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 13.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 8, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter, dated the 30th October, concurring in the proposal of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the armed dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," should be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Piracy Act, 1850, I am commanded by their Lordships to request you will inform the Secretary of State that a despatch, copy of which is inclosed, was simultaneously received from the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, suggesting the destruction of the dhows.

2. Copy of the further telegraphic correspondence which passed between the Admiralty and the Commander-in-chief upon this subject is also inclosed, and I am to state that with Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, my Lords propose to approve of the action suggested, leaving it to the discretion of Rear-Admiral Drury, either to burn the dhows in the Shat-al-Arab, or to scuttle them in the Persian Gulf.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 240.

Rear-Admiral Drury to Admiralty.

Sir,

"Highflyer," at Trincomalee, October 3, 1902.

WITH reference to "Lapwing's" letter of the 7th ultimo, forwarded direct to Admiralty, the duplicate of which I have just received, be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have approved of the action taken by the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" on the 5th September last.

It is asserted that an influential Arab organized, on Turkish territory, a plot for the murder of Sheikh Mabourek, of Koweit, and that the dhows, filled with armed men, were to proceed to a certain point near Koweit, act in conjunction with a land force of Arabs, and surprise the Sheikh by a night attack, with the object of killing him, and then to return to their boats and disappear.

Whatever was the object of the two armed dhows, it was entirely upset by the promptitude of the "Lapwing," and I consider Lieutenant Commander Armstrong is to be highly commended.

Had Sheikh Mabourek on the night in question been murdered in the manner it is suggested, it would undoubtedly have led to inconvenient complication in the Persian Gulf.

The loss of Daly, Able Seaman, is to be deeply regretted. I have directed that the dhows be retained for the present, and would suggest with reference to Article 304 of the Manual of Naval Prize Law, that I may receive permission for them to be destroyed. If there is no diplomatic or other objection, I would propose that they be burnt in the Shat-al-Arab, near Dura (to which port they belonged), for the sake of example and a warning against piratical acts, for the suppression of which we are acting in co-operation with the Turkish authorities.

I should like to further bring to their Lordships' notice the names of Sub-Lieutenant Rowbotham, Mr. Vugler, Gunner, and the men mentioned by Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong, for their creditable and gallant services, and also the Telegraph Superintendent at Fao, Mr. Lovell, whose prompt action in informing the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" of the proposed attack, was no doubt the cause of Koweit not being assaulted, whatever the result might have been.

The "Cossack" was at Koweit on the 16th September, collecting evidence, and I expect to hear the result shortly, and will communicate the same for the information of their Lordships.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. C. DRURY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 240.

Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Drury.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, November 5, 1902.

YOUR letter of 3rd October, proposing to burn captured dhows in Shat-al-Arab, it had been agreed between Admiralty, Foreign Office, and India Office that they should be dealt with under 13 & 14 Vict., cap. 26.

This would involve sending them to Colonial Court at Bombay or Aden, which may not be feasible or desirable. Report your opinion.

Inclosure 3 in No. 240.

Rear-Admiral Drury to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

December 5, 1902.

YOUR No. 104.

Do not consider it feasible or desirable to send captured dhows to Aden or Bombay, and, therefore, request approval to scuttle them in the Persian Gulf, over 3 mile limit, if the proposal contained in my letter of 3rd October is not approved. Evidence just received clearly shows they were armed dhows belonging to Yusef-bin Ibrahim, bound to Koweit, apart from fact that they first opened fire on the "Lapwing's" boat. Evidence follows by post.

No. 241.

Consul Wratishlaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, December 15.)

(No. 64.)

Sir,

Bussorah, November 14, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Excellency No. 72 of the 10th November, I have the honour to inclose herewith the translation of the Vali's letter to me

describing the Koweit witnesses as Ottoman subjects. In view of the instructions contained in your Excellency's telegram of the 3rd November, that I should be careful not to admit the Vali's pretention to consider them as Ottoman subjects, I thought it advisable in my reply (copy inclosed) to refer to these men as "subjects of Sheikh Mubarek," which, I hoped, would be a sufficient reservation without formally raising the question of their status. The Vali, however, at once pounced on my phrase, and, in his reply, of which I inclose a translation, requested me to correct it. I have already telegraphed to your Excellency that I propose to reply to him that I see nothing in my letter which requires correction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 241.

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Consul Wratistlaw.

(Translation.)
Sir,

*Bussorah, October 21, 1318
(November 3, 1902).*

YOUR letter No. 115 of the 31st October last (in which it was stated that it appeared, from Kaïmakam Mubarek Pasha's Declaration, that the informers wanted by the Law Courts were away from Koweit, and that the sailing-Captain Abdullah and his comrades were, therefore, brought in place of the former and were, during their stay in Bussorah, to be kept under the eye of the Captain of the "Lapwing"), was referred to the Assistant Public Prosecutor, who made a Minute to the effect that the competent Department would, naturally, accord all such permissions and attentions as the law allows to informants able to bring the truth to light; nevertheless, the laws as to the summoning and audition of informants like these, who are of Ottoman nationality, before the Turkish Courts of Law, do not admit of the Rules and conditions stipulated in your letter, and if these men appear in the Court of "Istintak," their information will be taken down in the usual way in the presence of the "Mustantik" and the Clerk of the Court; and, provided no legal impediment arises, they will, of course, be left free, on the completion of their depositions. On their coming to the Court of "Istintak," the prescriptions of the law will be carried out, whereas, if they fail to come, a summons will be issued for them in due course, in order to obviate hindrance to the pursuit of the inquiry, and they will be then heard, as the requirements of the case obviously demand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSTAFA NOURI PASHA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 241.

Consul Wratistlaw to Mustafa Nouri Pasha.

Sir,

Bussorah, November 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the sworn depositions of Ali-bin-Ahmed Khalaf, Edan-bin-Metar, Abdullah-el-Foderi, Abdullah-bin-Nesf, and Salih-bin-Mahomed Mal Allah, inhabitants of Koweit and subjects of Sheikh Mubarek, which I have taken myself, as your Excellency, in your letter No. 832 of the 21st October (3rd November), declined to allow them to be given before the Mustantik in the presence of the Commander of the "Lapwing."

If any doubt previously existed in your Excellency's mind concerning the complicity of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim in the expedition from Dora against Koweit which encountered His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," these depositions will, I am confident, dissipate it.

In forwarding my report on the whole incident to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I regret that I shall be unable to state that I have received any assistance in this matter from the Local Government, which seems to have considered it its duty to prevent the truth coming to light.

Inclosure 3 in No. 241.

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Consul Wratistlaw.

(Translation.)
Sir,

*Bussorah, October 27, 1318
(November 9, 1902).*

AFTER perusal of your letter No. 116 of the 6th November last, since, as you are aware, the matter lies in its judicial aspect within the province of the judicial procedure prescribed by the Law of the State, both the letter and the papers containing the depositions in writing were referred and handed over to the judicial authorities. Thereon a Minute backed by a separate communication in due form was made to the effect that the said written depositions could not be made use of by the Law Courts, and that on the authors of the depositions coming in person to the Court of Inquiry (Istentak), the facts of the case would be brought to light on the basis of the depositions there made: in pursuance of this, summonses were drawn up to the names of the persons in question, who are Ottoman subjects, and, according to rule, forwarded to the Kaïmakam of Koweit.

In the first paragraph of your letter figures a sentence concerning these men being "Subjects of Sheikh Mubarek." By "Sheikh Mubarek" is meant, of course, Mubarek-el-Subah Pasha; the said Pasha is Kaïmakam of the Caza of Koweit, which is part of the Imperial Dominions, and the individuals in question are people of the same Caza; and since they are all of them Ottoman subjects, the sentence about "Sheikh Mubarek" cannot be accepted by the vilayet, and it is requested that it be amended.

Moreover, in the last paragraph of your letter, it was stated that the course of events made it clear that the local authorities did not consider it their duty to bring to light the truth about the "Lapwing" incident. Now, it is a clear fact, as will be at any time evident on examining the current proceedings, that immediately on receiving news of the "Lapwing" incident, the vilayet set to work to make inquiries of every sort, and that on the matter being duly referred to the judiciary, haste was made to get to the bottom of the matter according to the judicial procedure of the land. And I beg to declare that, notwithstanding your opinion to the contrary, the vilayet has performed its duty conscientiously in the matter in question.

No. 242.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 184.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 15, 1902.

THE Admiralty learns from the Commander-in-chief on the East India Station that it will not be feasible to send dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" to Aden or Bombay for adjudication. He therefore suggests that they should either be scuttled, outside the three-mile limit, in the Persian Gulf, or burnt at the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab, in the neighbourhood of Dura, to which port they belong, as an example and warning against acts of piracy. I should be glad to have your views as to these alternatives. The latter would probably give rise to a protest from the Porte, and scarcely seems to be in accordance with international comity, unless it can be justified on the ground that no justice can be obtained from the Turkish authorities by His Majesty's Government.

No. 243.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 13th instant, relative to the recent piratical affray in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, December 15, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 13, 1902.

THE reports submitted to Consul Wratislaw and the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," make it clear that the recent piratical attempt on Koweit was directly organized by Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim (see my telegram of the 8th October), and that the Wali has deliberately brought about the collapse of the inquiry, while during the proceedings a claim that inhabitants of Koweit are Ottoman subjects was twice advanced by him. To drop a case in which British blue-jackets have lost their lives and in which the Turks have so behaved does not seem possible, and we urge that strong measures should be taken in order to prevent a repetition of the incident, by which our position at Koweit and our prestige in the Gulf must be gravely prejudiced. Here, as well as at Aden, the attitude of the Turks suggests that we have reached the limits of concession, and that it may be desirable to make a display of force if reparation is not accorded. The supersession of the Wali and the punishment of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and the guilty parties are measures for which we trust His Majesty's Government will press.

No. 244.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 141.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 16, 1902.

I THINK the preferable course of the two suggested in your Lordship's telegram No. 184 of yesterday is that the dhows should be destroyed outside the 3-mile limit. This will be sufficient to produce the desired effect.

No. 245.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 186.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 17, 1902.

I SHOULD be glad to have your observations on a telegram from the Viceroy, which I am repeating to you, in regard to the recent attempt on Koweit.

In your despatch No. 529 of the 2nd December, I notice that you report having warned the Minister for Foreign Affairs that you would probably be compelled to demand more serious reparation, unless the Porte took the initiative in punishing Yusuf.

His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah states, in a private letter to you, which is awaiting the first safe opportunity for transmission, that the Wali has become corrupt, that he has accepted a bribe of 1,400l. from Yusuf, and that, as a punishment for his behaviour in this incident, it would be advantageous that he should be removed.

No. 246.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd October, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you copies of a letter from the Admiralty and telegraphic correspondence with His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople* in regard to the question of the disposal of the dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" near the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab in September last.

* Nos. 240, 242, and 244.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to suggest to the Admiralty that the dhows should be destroyed in the Persian Gulf, outside the 3-mile limit, in accordance with the recommendations of Sir N. O'Connor.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 247.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 18.)

Sir,

India Office, December 18, 1902.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. H. Sanderson's letter of the 17th instant, and to say that he concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to suggest to the Admiralty that the dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" should be destroyed in the Persian Gulf outside the 3-mile limit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 248.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you copies of correspondence with His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and with the India Office in regard to the question of the disposal of the dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" in the neighbourhood of the Shat-el-Arab last October.*

I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Commander-in-chief on the East India Station should be informed that the second alternative proposed by him is approved by His Majesty's Government, and that he is accordingly authorized to destroy the dhows in the Persian Gulf, outside the 3-mile limit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 249.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

Sir,

India Office, December 17, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 17th October last, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a further telegram on the subject of the recent attack on Koweit.

His Lordship has noted what is said in Sir N. O'Connor's despatches No. 508 of the 20th November and No. 515 of the 26th November. He would be glad to know whether there is any later information on the subject which he could communicate to the Governor-General.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 249.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 13, 1902.

THE reports submitted by Consul Wratislaw and the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" make it clear that the recent piratical attempt on Koweit was

* Nos. 242, 244, 245, and 246.

directly organized by Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim (see my telegram of the 8th October), and that the Wali has deliberately brought about the collapse of the inquiry, while during the proceedings a claim that inhabitants of Koweit are Ottoman subjects was twice advanced by him. To drop a case in which British blue-jackets have lost their lives, and in which the Turks have so behaved, does not seem possible, and we urge that strong measures should be taken in order to prevent a repetition of the incident, by which our position at Koweit and our prestige in the Gulf must be gravely prejudiced. Here, as well as at Aden, the attitude of the Turks suggests that we have reached the limits of concession, and that it may be desirable to make a display of force if reparation is not accorded. The supersession of the Wali, and the punishment of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and the guilty parties, are measures for which we trust His Majesty's Government will press.

No. 250.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 22.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 20, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 18th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated this day, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 250.

Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Drury.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR No. 50.

Admiralty, December 20, 1902.

His Majesty's Government approve of your alternative proposal, and authorize you to destroy the dhows in the Persian Gulf outside the 3-mile limit.

No. 251.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd December, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, December 24, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 251.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 22, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 13th instant, relative to Koweit affairs, has been repeated to Sir N. O'Connor for his Excellency's observations. A warning has been given to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, that unless his Government take the initiative in punishing Yusuf, Great Britain would probably demand more serious reparation.

No. 252.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 145.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, December 30, 1902.

KOWEIT. According to a telegram, dated the 27th December, which I have just received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, a report had reached him that the Amir of Nejd was about a day's journey from Koweit. Similar information was received by the Porte yesterday, and a telegram was at once sent to the Vali of Bussorah, instructing him to take immediate steps to prevent any attack on the Sheikh by the Amir, and reminding him of engagement with His Majesty's Government to respect status of Koweit.

I told the Grand Vizier that we should take measures to defend Sheikh in the event of the Amir attacking him.

No. 253.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 31.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 27, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, dated the 9th instant, together with a copy of its inclosures, forwarding copies of the evidence of witnesses as to the ownership of the dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," off Koweit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 253.

Rear-Admiral Drury to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

December 9, 1902.

WITH reference to my letter of the 3rd October, 1902, and my telegram of the 5th December.

2. From the inclosed correspondence, it appears to me that the action of the local Turkish authorities has been such as to show their sympathy with the attempted attack on Koweit, if not their indirect co-operation, and I quite concur with Lieutenant and Commander Armstrong that it would be desirable to represent the matter to the Turkish Government at Constantinople. To call upon them for the punishment of Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim and the leaders of those who took part in the expedition would be desirable, if that end could be attained.

(Signed) CHAS. C. DRURY, *Rear-Admiral,*
Commander-in-chief.

Inclosure 2 in No. 253.

Lieutenant Armstrong to Rear-Admiral Drury.

Sir,

"Lapwing," at Bussorah, November 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I proceeded to Koweit on the 15th October, and managed to persuade Sheikh Moubarak to let me take back to Bussorah six witnesses against Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim; to do this, I had to promise not to allow them out of my presence, as Sheikh Moubarak was afraid they would be enticed away and ill-treated or murdered.

2. Five of these men were in a dhow lying off Dura when the expedition started; they saw Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim directing affairs, he started with two dhows which were full of armed men, and then went back to the shore in a bellam; they recognize the dhows I have captured as the same two, and know them as belonging to Yussuf. The other witness was actually captain of one of these dhows some years ago, and recognizes them as belonging to Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim.

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3. The Vali definitely refused to allow me to be present when these witnesses were examined, so as I could not allow them out of my sight; their sworn depositions have now been taken at the British Consulate instead, and I am taking them back to Koweit.

4. The sworn depositions of seven other witnesses taken at Koweit by Commander Cartwright, have been sent to the Vali, four of these were on shore at Dura when the expedition started, and they were informed by the people present that it was going to attack Koweit, they saw Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim there directing affairs, also Hamoud-bin-Jerrah, nephew of Sheikh Moubarak, Asbi-bin-Sabah, also a connection, and Ahmed-bin-Mahomet Assousi, whose seal I found in one of the dhows, and who is one of Yussuf's trusted men.

5. There is evidence from the Vice-Consul at Mohammerah of a man named Garib from Manyuhi. He states that one of the prisoners at present in the custody of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, is one of Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim's men, he is a relative of his (Garib's) and tried to cross the river to Dura with another man on the night after the capture, he told Garib he had been paid by Hamoud-bin-Jerrah to go and attack Koweit, and said he was chased and had a fight with British seamen.

6. From the evidence, direct and indirect, there is absolutely no doubt that Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim organized and financed the expedition against Koweit, and that the nephews of Sheikh Moubarak were also concerned in it. Yussuf is a very wealthy and influential man, and is greatly feared in the country—this is chiefly the reason that it is so difficult to get evidence. Many people have given secret evidence, but will not give their names or appear, as they are afraid of him.

7. I have heard that there were five Arabs killed, and a good number wounded by our fire, and we have heard that some of the wounded are at Dura and other places, but apparently the Vali has done nothing to get, or use evidence from them.

8. The Vali all through has not only given us no assistance in this matter, but I have reason to believe that he has done his best to prevent the truth coming out, and it is quite evident that no effective action will be taken by him unless he is forced to do so.

9. I do not think we can do anything further here, and it appears to me to be decidedly advisable that this matter should not be allowed to drop, as not only would we lose a lot of prestige in the Gulf if it were understood that British seamen could be fired at and killed without fear of future punishment, but it would encourage Yussuf-bin-Ibrahim to send out other expeditions against Koweit—one of which might easily prove successful—as the chance of getting information of them in time is extremely remote; and it would also encourage piracy in the river which for the time being is practically stopped.

10. Mr. Wratislaw, British Consul here, has worked hard in this matter and done all he could to obtain evidence, and to press the Vali to take action, but our efforts in the latter have been quite fruitless, and I hope that now some pressure may be brought to bear on the Government at Constantinople.

11. I am taking the captured dhows to Koweit, where I will ask Sheikh Moubarak to take charge of them for the time being. I would submit that I might take them to sea and sink them, when they are no longer likely to be called for for purposes of the inquiry into this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. ARMSTRONG,
Lieutenant and Commander.

Inclosure 3 in No. 253.

Lieutenant Armstrong to Rear-Admiral Drury.

Sir,
IN accordance with your telegraphic orders of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward you—

(a.) Copies of the sworn evidence of seven witnesses taken by Commander Cartwright at Koweit.

(b.) Copies of the sworn evidence of five witnesses taken by the British Consul and myself at Bussorah.

(c.) Copy of the evidence of one witness taken at Mohammerah by the Vice-Consul at Kargazar.

2. I also inclose, for your information, the copy of a private confidential letter from the Vice-Consul at Mohammerah to the British Resident at Bushire. I have given copies of this letter to the Senior Naval Officer of the Persian Gulf Division, and also to the Lieutenant-Commander of the "Assaye."

3. The Senior Officer has also copies of the evidence of all the witnesses enumerated in paragraph 1 of this letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. ARMSTRONG,
Lieutenant and Commander.

Inclosure 4 in No. 253.

Depositions taken at Koweit.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 253.

Depositions of Abdullah-bin-Nasf and others.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 253.

Examination of Gharib, Resident of Manyuhi, in the presence of his Excellency the Sardar Arfar and Etila-el-Dowleh, Karguzar of Arabistan, and Mr. McDouall, Vice-Consul of His Britannic Majesty at Mohammerah.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 7 in No. 253.

Vice-Consul McDouall to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

Dear Colonel,

Mohammerah, November 14, 1902.

MY friend Atab has succeeded in opening communications with some of Bin Ibrahim's men, through a tribesman of his who was with them when the fight with the "Lapwing" occurred. He reports that three wounded men are in a small village nearly opposite Dura, on this side, and their friends visit them every evening.

They tell the man that Salih-bin-Brahim has now 200 men; he has paid them well, and engaged them to make an attack on the "Lapwing."

The idea being that, Yusuf being away, if an attack is made they can claim that it is a proof that the original culprits were river pirates, and had now attacked the "Lapwing" out of revenge, and the original men, therefore, were not in Yusuf's employ.

The party to whom the wounded men belong consists of about twelve men under one Khalise; they tell our man that they are willing to come and give evidence if promised forgiveness and guaranteed against arrest or ill-treatment by Turks or Bin Brahim.

They would go to Bussorah if so guaranteed, and state that they were engaged by Yusuf to attack Koweit, and that they fired first on the "Lapwing," and would show a paper proving that they were engaged by Yusuf.

They say not to let Sheikh Khagul know anything, as Mulla Hamza keeps Yusuf informed of all that goes on here.

I have written all this to Wratislaw, and asked him what he can do, and if he has any money for any expenses if necessary.

We could get the wounded men here, I think, and perhaps then get the Karguzar to arrest them; but, if protected, they would give evidence; if arrested, they might not.

This story is only from a rather weak-minded robber, but Atab says his information can be relied on.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM McDOWALL.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART IV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF KOWEIT.

1902.